

Board of Directors

Board Co-President
Mira El Sombaty
Fox Corporation

Board Co-President
Diana Hughes Leiden
Winston & Strawn LLP

Board Treasurer
Chris Hollinger
O'Melveny & Myers LLP

Board Secretary
Pamela Palmer
Pepper Hamilton LLP

Immediate Past-President
Lois Thompson
Proskauer Rose LLP

Members
Stacey Armato
Atlantic Investors

Tony Blain
Blain & Associates

Christa M. Demeke
The Wonderful Company

Theane Evangelis
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Kevin Feldman
Feldman Capital LLC

Kerry C. Fowler
Jones Day

Victor George
Law Offices of Victor L. George

Lisa Gilford
Sidley Austin LLP

Genie Harrison
Genie Harrison Law Firm

Esra Hudson
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP

Bethany Kristovich
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

Anna Menedjian
2020 Inc.

Edie Mermelstein, Esq.
FEM Law Group

Kim Nakamaru
Global Eagle Entertainment

Amy Quartarolo
Latham & Watkins LLP

Executive Director
Betsy Butler

March 27, 2019

The Honorable Connie Leyva
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 493 (Jackson) - Support

Dear Senator Leyva,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we are writing in support of Senate Bill 493, which will ensure that adequate processes are in place for colleges and universities to investigate and respond to sexual harassment and assault.

This harmful conduct deeply affects a student's ability to pursue and receive an education in a safe, non-discriminatory environment. Historically marginalized groups including women, students of color, and LGBTQI students are disproportionately harmed.

Students who experience sexual harassment or assault not only suffer physical and emotional effects, but are also denied their legal right to fully access their education when their school does not appropriately investigate or respond to these incidents. An estimated 34% of student survivors drop out of school.

SB 493 will require institutions of higher education to implement policies and processes to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and violence, including notice and posting requirements, as well as transparent procedures for investigating complaints to ensure a fair and equitable process for all.

CWLC's mission is to advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. CWLC is committed to ensuring that school campuses are safe from sexual harassment and assault. No girl's education or future should be threatened because of an unsafe campus.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center strongly supports SB 493.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler
Executive Director