



SB 1161

Public Transit Ridership Safety
Senator Dave Min, 37th District

SUMMARY

California's public transit systems provide a crucial service to local communities. Unfortunately, studies show that many women (trans and cisgender) and other vulnerable communities commonly experience harassment while using transit services.

SB 1161 is a starting point to begin to address this issue by requiring the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University to develop a survey tool that transit operators can administer to develop data-driven initiatives to help prevent street harassment on public transportation systems.

BACKGROUND

The Unruh Civil Rights Act requires public agencies, including transit operators, to provide each person full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services regardless of factors such as sex, race, color, religion, disability, medical condition, sexual orientation, citizenship, and more.

Despite this legal protection, women and other vulnerable communities are often unable to access public transit safely due to street harassment, which can include unwanted sexual and racialized comments and slurs, whistling, leering, and other intimidating actions.

According to a 2019 statewide study by the University of California San Diego Center on Gender Equity and Health, 77 percent of women experience sexual harassment in a public space, including 29 percent on mass transit.

Furthermore, women who identify as lesbian or bisexual are more likely to report experiencing sexual harassment than heterosexual women.

Since its official launch in March 2020, the Stop AAPI Hate coalition has received over 11,500

reports of hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) from across the country. Almost 50 percent of incidents took place at public venues, including streets, parks, and on transit.

In addition to AAPIs, Black women, Latina women, women of color, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ & TGI communities, and the young and elderly also experience street harassment on transit.

Many transit operators have not investigated the role of street harassment on their systems and how street harassment prevents equal access to transportation.

As transit operators look to increase ridership, efforts to protect rider safety, including the prevention of street harassment on transit, can be a critical tool in rebuilding rider trust and patronage.

THIS BILL

To promote safe ridership, SB 1161 requires the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University to:

- Develop a survey tool to measure rider demographic information and experiences with safety, including street harassment, while waiting at transit stops and riding public transit;
- Consult with organizations representing subpopulations impacted by street harassment and the top 10 transit agencies in California in developing the survey tool; and
- Make the survey tool available on its Internet website for transit operators, which will promote consistency in the collection of data regarding street harassment on public transit.



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SUPPORT

Stop AAPI Hate Coalition (sponsor)
Los Angeles County Metropolitan
Transportation Authority (sponsor)
AAPI Equity Alliance
ACLU California Action
African Advocacy Network
Alliance for Girls
APEX Express
API Forward Movement
Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition of the
North Bay
Asian Americans in Action
Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution
Center (APADRC)
Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers
Alliance (APAWLA)
Asian Pacific Community Fund
Asian Pacific School Board Members
Association
Asian Youth Center (AYC)
AYPAL: Building API Community Power
California Association of Human Relations
Organizations (CAHRO)
California Chamber of Commerce (CalChamber)
California Commission on Asian and Pacific
Islander American Affairs
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
Cambodia Town Inc.
Center for Asian Americans in Action
Center for Asian Americans United for Self
Empowerment (CAUSE)
Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Chinese Progressive Association
City and County of San Francisco, Board of
Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco, Department
on the Status of Women
City and County of San Francisco, Office of
Sexual Harassment and Assault Response
and Prevention (SHARP)
City of La Mesa

City of Los Angeles
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
Consumers for Auto Reliability & Safety
Contigo Communications
Council on American-Islamic Relations,
California
County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Disability Rights California
Educating Marissa, LLC
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
(EPIC)
Equal Justice Society
Food Empowerment Project
Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles
Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA)
Hmong Innovating Politics
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective
Japantown Task Force
Korean American Center
Korean American Coalition - Los Angeles
Korean Community Center of the East Bay
League of California Cities Asian Pacific
Islander Caucus
LA Raza Community Resource Center
MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino
Americana
Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing
Project
National Pacific Islander Education Network
North East Medical Services (NEMS)
OCA - Sacramento Chapter
Pacific Asian Counseling Services
People Organizing to Demand Environmental &
Economic Rights
San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)
San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation
Agency (SFMTA)
San Francisco Transit Riders
Self-Help for the Elderly
Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American
Democratic Club
SOMA Pilipinas



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SUPPORT (continued)

South Asian Network
Southeast Asian Development Center
Jack Shu, Vice Mayor, City of La Mesa
Thai Community Development Center
Tranzito
UC Student Association
The Unity Council
The Women's Building
Women's Foundation of California
Wu Yee Children's Services
Youth Against Hate
YWCA Berkeley and Oakland

OPPOSITION

None on File

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AB 2448

Expanding Civil Rights Protections at Businesses

Assemblymember
Phil Ting
19TH DISTRICT



SUMMARY

California has seen a rise in hate against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) during the COVID-19 pandemic, from brutal attacks against elderly Asian Americans to the ongoing verbal harassment of AAPI women.

Many AAPIs continue to fear being in public spaces, and many hate incidents occur at retailers and other businesses. More needs to be done to ensure that individuals can go into the public without fearing for their safety or that they will be discriminated against.

BACKGROUND

Hate crimes have surged in California and nationally since 2015, escalating more since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and still further in 2021.

Since March 2020, the national coalition Stop AAPI Hate has received nearly 11,500 reports of hate incidents from AAPIs across the country, a vast majority of which are not crimes. More than 4,300 of these hate incidents took place in California, and a quarter of these took place in businesses.

The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism's preliminary 2021 data shows large increases in anti-AAPI hate crimes in major cities nationally, including 173% in LA and an astonishing 567% in San Francisco. Overall nationally, hate crimes were reported up another 11%, with African Americans remaining the most targeted community and a resurgence in anti-Semitic hate crimes.

The numbers reported and the incidents publicized reflect only a fraction of the

actual numbers because of insufficient data collection and underreporting. This results in a significant lack of support and services needed within our communities, and instills fear among Californians.

Existing law under the Unruh Civil Rights Act protects all Californians from discrimination by a business due to their sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, citizenship, primary language, or immigration status.

THIS BILL

AB 2448 would require the Civil Rights Department, formerly the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, to create a pilot program that would recognize businesses for creating safe and welcoming environments free from discrimination and harassment of customers.

Businesses could qualify for recognition by complying with civil rights laws such as the Unruh Civil Rights Act, training employees of their duties, informing the public of their rights and how to report violations through signage or other means, or engaging in other efforts to prevent and respond to discrimination and harassment regardless of the identity of the offender.

The Department would provide a certificate to qualifying businesses that can be posted onsite and online, so customers know which businesses receive the recognition. The Department would also evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot in reducing discrimination and harassment at businesses.

AB 2448

Expanding Civil Rights Protections at Businesses

Assemblymember
Phil Ting
19TH DISTRICT



SUPPORT

Stop AAPI Hate (Sponsor)
AAPI Equity Alliance
Anti-Defamation League
Asian Americans in Action
Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement
Asian Youth Center
California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO)
California Employment Lawyers Association
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
Cambodia Town Inc.
Center for Asian Americans in Action
Center for the Pacific Asian Family
Chinatown Service Center
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
Equal Justice Society
Hmong Innovating Politics
Jack Shu, Vice Mayor, City of La Mesa
Khmer Girls in Action
Korean American Bar Association of San Diego
Korean American Coalition
Korean American Family Services
La Raza Community Resource Center
Little Tokyo Service Center

Linda Ly's Private Practice
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
National Asian Pacific American Families
Against Substance Abuse
North East Medical Services
Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander
Community Alliance
Pacific Asian Counseling Services
Saahas for Cause
San Francisco City and County Board of
Supervisors
San Francisco Democratic County Central
Committee
San Francisco Senior & Disability Action
Self-Help for the Elderly
South Asian Network
Southeast Asian Community Center
Thai Community Development Center

OPPOSE

None on file

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