



SB 434

Public Transit for All: Improving Safety & Increasing Ridership

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 experience harassment while using transit services.

This measure will require California's 10 largest transit operators to gather and publish qualitative and quantitative ridership data regarding street harassment as riders wait at transit stops and ride transit vehicles. This is a critical first step in addressing and preventing street harassment of women and other vulnerable communities on public transit.

BACKGROUND

Though the Unruh Civil Rights Act requires transit operators to provide each person full and equal accommodations, 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.

Since March 2020, the Stop AAPI Hate coalition has received nearly 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+ 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, this bill requires the top 10 transit operators in California to:

- Collect qualitative and quantitative ridership data regarding street harassment as riders wait at transit stops and ride transit vehicles, and publish this data on their websites;
- Conduct outreach activities with riders who are underrepresented in surveys yet impacted by street harassment so that all voices are heard; and,
- Utilize the community survey developed by the Mineta Transportation Institute pursuant to SB 1161 (Min) to collect ridership data, if desired.

SUPPORT

Stop AAPI Hate (sponsor)
AAPI Equity Alliance
ACLU California Action
African Advocacy Network
Alliance for Girls
APEX Express
API Council of San Francisco
API Forward Movement
Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition
of the North Bay

SUPPORT (cont'd)

Asian Americans in Action
Asian Law Alliance
Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center (APADRC)
Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance (APAWLA)
Asian Pacific Community Fund
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Asian Youth Center (AYC)
AYPAL: Building API Community Power Bay Area Council
CAIR California
California Association of Human Relations Organizations (CAHRO)
California Chamber of Commerce (Cal Chamber)
California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
California Transit Association
Cambodia Town Inc.
Center for Asian Americans in Action
Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE)
Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research (CLEAR)
Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Chinese Progressive Association
City and County of San Francisco
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 Los Angeles
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
Consumers for Auto Reliability & Safety
Contigo Communications
Costa Mesa Alliance for Better Streets
County of Los Angeles
Disability Rights California
East Bay La Raza Lawyers Association
Educating Marissa, LLC
El/La Para TransLatinas
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
Equal Justice Society
Equality California
Ethnic Media Services
Food Empowerment Project
Food for People
Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA)
Hmong Innovating Politics
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective
Japantown Task Force
Justice in Aging
Korean American Center
Korean American Coalition - Los Angeles
Korean American Federation of Los Angeles
Korean Community Center of the East Bay
Korean Community Services
LA Metro
LA Raza Community Resource Center
MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana
Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project
National Pacific Islander Education Network
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition
North East Medical Services (NEMS)
Oakland Lacrosse Club
OCA - Sacramento Chapter
Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA)
Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA)
Pacific Asian Counseling Services
People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights
San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)
San Francisco Senior & Disability Action
San Francisco Transit Riders
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Santa Monica Democratic Club
Self-Help for the Elderly
Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American Democratic Club
SOMA Pilipinas
South Asian Network
Southeast Asian Community Center
Southeast Asian Development Center
Streets Are For Everyone (SAFE)
Streets For All
Thai Community Development Center
The Betti Ono Foundation

SUPPORT (cont'd)

The Unity Council
The Women's Building
TransForm
Tranzito

University of California Student Association
Women's Foundation of California
Wu Yee Children's Services
Youth Against Hate
YWCA Berkeley Oakland

OPPOSITION

None on File

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SB 434

PUBLIC TRANSIT FOR ALL: IMPROVING SAFETY & INCREASING RIDERSHIP

Senator Dave Min, 37th District

SB 434 (Min) will require California's 10 largest transit operators to gather and publish ridership data regarding street harassment as riders wait at transit stops and ride transit vehicles. This is a critical first step in making public transit safer for everyone and rebuilding transit ridership.

BACKGROUND

Women and other vulnerable communities are unable to access public transit safely due to street harassment.

Street harassment includes:

- Unwanted sexual and racialized comments and slurs
- Whistling
- Leering
- Other intimidating actions

77 percent of women experience sexual harassment in a public space, including 29 percent on mass transit.*

**According to a 2019 statewide study by the University of California San Diego Center on Gender Equity and Health.*

Street harassment on transit harms women, especially women and girls of color, and members of the disability and LGBTQ+ communities.

Fear of street harassment on transit compels riders to:

- Avoid public transit
- Leave a bus or train mid-trip
- Avoid travel in the evening
- Avoid settings like crowded buses

THE BILL

To promote safety and bring back riders, this bill requires the top 10 transit operators in California to:

- Collect qualitative and quantitative ridership data regarding street harassment as riders wait at transit stops and ride transit vehicles, and publish this data on their websites;
- Conduct outreach activities with riders who are underrepresented in surveys yet impacted by street harassment so that all voices are heard; and,
- Utilize the community survey developed by the Mineta Transportation Institute pursuant to SB 1161 (Min) to collect ridership data, if desired.

THE BUDGET

Implementing SB 434 will require a **one-time \$5 million appropriation from existing funds**. This funding request will be used to address street harassment on transit, which will make public transportation safer and more welcoming to all riders.