



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 & 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, 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
Asian Americans in Action
Asian Law Alliance
Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center (APADRC)
Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance (APAWLA)

SUPPORT (cont'd)

Asian Pacific Community Fund
Asian Youth Center (AYC)
AYPAL: Building API Community Power
CAIR California
California Association of Human Relations
Organizations (CAHRO)
California Commission on Asian and
Pacific Islander American Affairs
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, Office of
Sexual Harassment and Assault
Response and Prevention (SHARP)
Community Legal Services in East Palo
Alto
Consumers for Auto Reliability & Safety
Contigo Communications
Educating Marissa, LLC
Equal Justice Society
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 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)
Pacific Asian Counseling Services
People Organizing to Demand
Environmental & Economic Rights
San Francisco Senior & Disability Action
San Francisco Transit Riders
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 For All
Thai Community Development Center
The Betti Ono Foundation
The Unity Council
The Women's Building
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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