



# SB 1161

Public Transit Ridership Safety  
Senator Dave Min, 37<sup>th</sup> District

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## **SUMMARY**

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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 will require California's 10 largest transit operators to gather research on street harassment of women and other vulnerable communities, and to develop data-driven initiatives to help prevent street harassment on public transit systems.

## **BACKGROUND**

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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 11,000

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**

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To promote safe ridership, SB 1161 would require the top 10 transit operators in California to:

- Recognize street harassment as a safety concern in their public transit systems;
- Gather and analyze data regarding street harassment as riders wait at transit stops and ride transit vehicles;
- Develop and implement plans, based on data and community consultation, to address street harassment on their systems, including using non-criminalization approaches;
- Consider safety concerns, including street harassment, when planning, designing, and operating their systems.



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## SUPPORT

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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  
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  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
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)**

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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**

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None on File

## **STAFF CONTACT**

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