



Advancing Equity. Ending Sexual Violence.®

2024 NEW LAWS AND LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

Every year, the California Legislature and the United States Congress pass several changes to state and federal law that affect survivors, advocates, and their communities. Below is a summary of federal and California bills that VALOR tracked.

Questions?

Grace Glaser
SR. PUBLIC AFFAIRS &
POLICY MANAGER

gglaser@valor.us

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Noteworthy legislation VALOR tracked throughout the 118th Congress.

HR 5145 (Jayapal - D, WA)

This bill would remove existing barriers for immigrant survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and other types of gender-based violence who are eligible for protections created by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) by lifting the cap on U visas, preventing detention and deportation of immigrant survivors with pending cases, requiring issuance of work authorization, and strengthening confidentiality and privacy protections for immigrant survivors.

- Position: Support
- Status: Introduced

HR 7187 (Steube - R, FL)

This anti-transgender bill would prohibit transgender women from participating in Olympic or amateur sports.

- Position: Oppose
- Status: Introduced

HR 8061 (Wagner - R, MO)

Also known as the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act, this bill would take excess funding from the False Claims Act and direct the funding towards the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) to support the slow decline of funding collected by the CVF to fund Victims of Crime Act grant programs.

- Position: Support
- Status: Introduced

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

Noteworthy legislation VALOR tracked throughout the 2023-2024 legislative session.

AB 810 (Friedman - D)

This law will require California State Universities, California Community Colleges, and other institutions that receive federal funding to work with the Department of Justice and the FBI to screen new employees and volunteers within the school athletic department for substantiated claims of sexual misconduct and harassment. This is modeled after the current University of California policy.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 1039 (Rodriguez - D)

This bill would make sexual activity between adults in a public health department or a state prison a felony. While at face value, this may seem reasonable, the bill lacks to address the power imbalances that exist between a Corrections Officer and an incarcerated individual. This runs the risk of an incarcerated individual being coerced into non-consensual sexual activity or being susceptible to retaliation after being harmed.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations

AB 1186 (Bonta - D)

This law will eliminate an individual's responsibility to pay the remaining balance of any restitution fines, including uncollected fees, unenforceable and uncollectible after 10 years when the fine was originally requested. This new law works further towards decriminalizing violence and tackling core issues that address public safety, such as economic security.

- Position: Support
- Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 1456 (Patterson, Joe - R)

This bill would have begun the process of the Legislature introducing new bills that would roll back existing legislation around the release of individuals who have caused sexual harm. This bill would have prohibited the release of individuals from detention centers who did not have stable housing.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Held on Assemblymember's desk

AB 1783 (Essayli - R)

This bill would have removed taxpayer funding to support health care initiatives for undocumented and unauthorized immigrants.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Held on Assemblymember's desk

AB 1846 (Bauer-Kahan - D)

This bill would have required Judicial Council to establish optional training for judges on appropriate courtroom behavior when a survivor of sexual violence is present.

- Position: Support
- Status: Held in Senate Appropriations

AB 1954 (Alanis - R)

Current law requires the sheriff or chief of police within a county to provide input into an individual's housing plan when they are on conditional release. However, as the housing crisis continues to expand across the state, this new law will allow sheriffs and other law enforcement in other counties to provide input on housing options for individuals on conditional release.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 1956 (Reyes - D)

This bill would have required California to backfill the loss in federal Victims of Crime Act funding when federal funding dropped by 10% or more based on Congressional appropriations.

- Position: Co-sponsor
- Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations

AB 1962 (Berman - D)

This law will expand the definition of disorderly conduct to include the distribution of images recorded, captured, or otherwise obtained by someone without the individual's consent. This creates a new crime in California.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 1974 (Petrie-Norris - D)

This law will expand upon the risks evaluated in family court to include associated risks when in possession of a firearm in the presence of domestic violence.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 2295 (Addis - D)

This law clarifies existing law that if a case of child sexual abuse is disclosed after the civil statute of limitations, the survivor is still eligible for Supportive services, including victims compensation and pursuing restorative justice practices.

- Position: Support
- Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 2354 (Bonta - D)

This bill would have considered an individual's experience of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking in the sentencing process for their court case. This bill would have helped recognize the widespread impact of gender-based violence and the long-lasting effects it has on survivors.

- Position: Support
- Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations

AB 2432 (Gabriel - D)

This law creates the first-ever California Crime Victims Fund. Intended to supplement federal Victims of Crime Act funding, due to fund instability, this law authorizes state prosecuting agencies to collect fines and fees from corporations when found guilty of crimes and deposit those funds into the California Crime Victims Fund.

- Position: Co-Sponsor
- Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 2470 (Patterson, Joe - R)

This bill would have expanded the definition of the Three Strikes Law to include domestic violence.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Held on Assemblymember's desk

AB 2490 (Petrie-Norris - D)

This bill would have established the Reproductive Health Emergency Preparedness Program (RHEPP) with the goal to expand and improve access to reproductive and sexual health care in emergency departments across California. This bill would have created a grant program to train and educate emergency care providers about essential services to support an individual's reproductive and sexual health care.

- Position: Co-Sponsor
- Status: Vetoed by the Governor

AB 2587 (Aguilar-Curry - D)

This bill would have extended the filing timeline for civil statute of limitations for survivors 18 years or older to up to two years.

- Position: Support
- Status: Held in Senate Appropriations

AB 2608 (Gabriel - D)

This law revises current training standards within the California State University and California Community College institutions to include the signs of alcohol and drug-facilitated sexual violence and appropriate interventions.

- Position: Support
- Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 2693 (Wicks - D)

This bill would have allowed survivors of childhood sexual abuse by an employee in a juvenile detention facility to revive claims that were filed before or on December 31, 2023, to January 1, 2025.

- Position: Support
- Status: Vetoed by the Governor

AB 2730 (Lackey - R)

This law makes changes to existing law around the definition of qualified health care providers who are eligible to complete a SANE exam. The new definition includes the eligibility for physician assistant and/or nurses and nurse practitioners to complete the exam without requiring consultation from a physician or surgeon.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 2833 (McKinnor - D)

This bill would have provided that participation and communication made during a restorative justice process confidential within all civil, criminal, juvenile, administrative or other proceedings.

- Position: Support
- Status: Held on Senate floor

AB 2843 (Petrie-Norris - D)

This law will prohibit a health care provider or insurance company from billing a survivor of sexual assault for follow-up or additional medical care that is needed due to sexual violence.

- Position: Support
- Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 2924 (Petrie-Norris - D)

This bill would have repealed the authorization for a person under 18 years old to be issued a marriage license or establish a domestic partnership. This bill would have helped contribute to ending forced child marriage in California.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Held in Assembly Judiciary

AB 2987 (Ortega - D)

This law mandates that California Community Colleges and California State Universities, and requests that University of California schools, to regularly update Title IX survivors and respondents about their case timeline and any updates. This law also mandates that campuses communicate any disciplinary actions to survivors and respondents within three business days.

- Position: Support
- Status: Signed by the Governor

AB 3127 (McKinnor - D)

This bill would have removed the requirement for health care professionals to make a report to law enforcement when they suspect a patient has suffered a physical injury caused by sexual assault, domestic violence, and other types of gender-based violence. This bill would have also required health care providers to offer brief counseling and referral to local services to Support a survivor.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Held in Senate Appropriations

SB 268 (Alvarado-Gil - D)

This law updated the definition of sexual assault of an intoxicated person to become a violent felony.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 575 (Wahab - D)

This law will require the State Registrar to produce a report by September 1, 2027, to produce a report with marriage licenses containing information where one or both parties are minors.

- Position: Support if amended
- Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 898 (Skinner - D)

Current law requires that the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to terminate an employee or volunteer in an investigation that confirms the employee sexually abused an incarcerated person. Due to retaliation following reporting, this bill would have required the department to Monitor the incarcerated person who filed the complaint for 90 days to ensure survivor safety.

- Position: Support
- Status: Did not pass Assembly floor third reading

SB 1069 (Menjivar - D)

This law will expand protections for incarcerated survivors of sexual violence by increasing oversight of the investigative process. This includes giving the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) the discretion to provide public oversight of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation related to staff sexual misconduct. In addition to oversight, OIG has the discretion to investigate reported claims, and they will have the discretion to Monitor and investigate complaints related to staff sexual misconduct.

- Position: Co-Sponsor
- Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 1126 (Min - D)

This bill would have amended the definition of “child abuse or neglect” to remove a child witnessing domestic violence or being present near domestic violence does not require a mandated report to law enforcement.

- Position: Monitor
- Status: Died on inactive file

SB 1356 (Wahab - D)

This law will require Judicial Council, when developing training on gender bias, to consider the role of gender in court proceedings.

- Position: Support
- Status: Signed by the Governor

SB 1386 (Caballero - D)

This law will remove the ability for defendants in civil cases to show proof of lack of consent or physical injury, therefore increasing pathways for survivors to access civil legal remedies.

- Position: Support
- Status: Signed by the Governor

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Budget Request (Reyes - D)

In the final June budget, the Governor and California Legislature included \$103 million in one-time funding to Support California VOCA-funded programs to supplement the loss in federal VOCA funding.

- Position: Co-Sponsor

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The 2024 election brought in a wave of new Congressional members. Get to know your Representative by searching for them [here](#).

Reach out to [Senator Padilla's office](#) and [Senator Schiff's office](#) to familiarize their staff with the work you do.

Reach out to your new California Senators and Assemblymembers.

One third of the California legislature are new members and they will have a lot to learn about how to support survivors of sexual assault and engage in meaningful policy work to support your communities. [Learn about your new Senators and Assemblymembers today.](#)