

MODEL ALLIANCE

September 18, 2018

Governor Edmund G. Brown
c/o Camille Wagner, Legislative Affairs Secretary
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

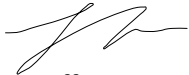
I understand that you are considering signing into law Assembly Member Marc Levine's bill, the Talent Protections Act (AB2338). As the founder and executive director of the Model Alliance, a nonprofit research and policy organization for people working in the American fashion industry, I urge you to sign AB2338 into law in California.

The entertainment industry has provided safe haven to sexual predators and operated under a system of secrecy in which victims have been intimidated into silence. Between October 2017 and July 2018, in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal, the Model Alliance received over 100 reports of sexual harassment and assault – an increase of 40 times over the year before. Even top fashion models working today acknowledge that they are scared to name names, and models continue to face retaliation when they report their experiences of sexual misconduct to their agencies. Indeed, in some cases, models face sexual harassment and assault by their own agents, who are supposed to be their first line of defense and represent their interests.

The fashion industry poses an added risk to the physical and mental health of professional models, who must endure pervasive pressures to conform to unhealthy and unrealistic standards of extreme thinness. A recent study conducted by the Model Alliance with our research partners at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Northeastern University found that 62% of models were asked to lose weight or change their shape, 54% were told they wouldn't book jobs unless they lost weight, and 21% were told their agency would stop representing them unless they lost weight – despite that over 80% of these models were underweight. As a result of these pressures to lose weight, many models suffer from eating disorders, which can have serious consequences on their development that affect them for life.

This legislation (AB2338) will help create a workplace environment in California's entertainment industry where models and other artists are better informed of their rights and know how to identify sexual harassment. California has enacted similar preventative measures in other industries, and the entertainment industry should not be an exception.

Sincerely,



Sara Ziff
Executive Director
Model Alliance