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ATKINS GARNERS DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT TO LIFT CALIFORNIA'S TRAVEL BAN

Seven years after California barred taxpayer-funded travel to states whose legislatures have enacted anti-LGBTQ legislation, that ban [could soon go away](#).

The **Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee** on Monday cleared the way for **SB 447**, by Senate President pro Tem **Toni Atkins**, D-San Diego.

SB 447 effectively undoes **AB 1887**, the 2016 travel ban law which Atkins said she voted for. It also would fund creation of a nonpartisan, LGBTQ-inclusive ad campaign that would run in states that have passed anti-LGBTQ laws.

"It would focus on issues, not politics or politicians," Atkins said.

Speaking to the committee on Monday, Atkins said that AB 1887 was well meaning, "but things have changed significantly and I believe a different approach is warranted."

She said the travel ban has led to unintended consequences, including interfering with the state's efforts to establish itself as a destination for out-of-state people seeking an abortions.

"One thing we discovered was that while we could pay for people's plane tickets to California, we couldn't pay for their tickets to go home because of the travel ban," Atkins said.

Atkins had two witnesses testify in support of her bill — **John Pérez**, former Assembly Speaker and **University of California** regent, and **Craig Pulsipher**, legislative director for **Equality California**.

Pérez said that AB 1887 has forced the university system to play "bureaucratic shell games" as it avoids spending state funds on student, faculty or staff to banned states.

Pulsipher said the U.S. is awash in anti-LGBTQ legislation, with more than 400 such bills being introduced this year alone, with most targeting transgender people.

"At a time when our community is quite literally under attack, being on offense and proactively combating hate is now more important than ever," he said.

No one spoke in opposition to the measure, which passed the committee by a 10-3 vote. The bill moves next to the **Senate Appropriations Committee**.

After the bill's committee passage on Monday, Atkins sent out an email blast touting the support of many prominent Democratic elected officials, including Sens. **Scott Wiener**, **Susan Talamantes Eggman**, Assemblyman **Rick Chavez Zbur** and Insurance Commissioner **Ricardo Lara**.

And what of Assemblyman **Evan Low**, D-Campbell, the author of AB 1887?

Low released a statement after Atkins first announced her bill saying that while he supports the concept of taking California's message of inclusion to other states, "we shouldn't completely end California's state-funded travel ban without having an alternative action in combating discrimination. We can't back down, especially as a record amount of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation is being introduced."