

SENATE FLOOR ALERT

May 13, 2022

To: **Members of the California State Senate**
From: **Public Justice**
Re: **SB 1149 (Leyva), The Public Right to Know Act of 2022 - SPONSOR**

Public Justice is the proud sponsor of **SB 1149 (Leyva)**, as amended on May 9, 2022. This important legislation would prohibit discoverable factual information about dangerous public hazards from being shielded from the public through overly broad court protective orders and agreements to keep information about dangers secret.

For decades, settlement agreements between the parties in litigation and, more recently, stipulations for court orders and standing protective orders have sealed information that the public has a right to know. This information relates not to legitimate trade secrets, but to dangers, defects, and hazards that must be disclosed in order to protect the public health.

There are too many tragic examples of the harms caused by secrecy. Harms that include tens of thousands of deaths and irreversible injuries: from faulty Firestone tires, to misuse of the drug Zyprexa, Remington rifles that discharge without pulling the trigger, GM faulty ignition switches, car seatbacks that break upon impact, Purdue Pharma's lies about Oxycontin, and [many more](#). In each of these instances, overly broad court protective orders shielded this information from the public view.

SB 1149 will fix this situation and as a result save lives. It will replace the protective order status quo with a presumption of disclosure and transparency.

We strongly urge an AYE vote for SB 1149 (Leyva)

If you have any questions please contact Kristina Bas Hamilton at 916-402-6276 or kristina@kbhadvocacy.com.