

Women: 'Pervasive' harassment in Calif. Capitol

By Melanie Mason, Los Angeles Times

A state legislator who was groped by a male lobbyist weeks after she was sworn into office. A legislative staffer-turned-lobbyist who for years would only wear pantsuits in order to project a "business-only" air. A government affairs director who faced inappropriate advances from an associate in full view of male colleagues who seemed oblivious as it happened.

As Hollywood takes a hard look at itself in the wake of the spiraling Harvey Weinstein sexual misconduct scandal, the women of California politics are publicly declaring: Us too.

More than 140 women – including legislators, Capitol staff, political consultants and lobbyists – are signing a letter calling out the "pervasive" culture of sexual harassment and mistreatment that plagues their industry.

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