

October 23, 2025

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Anabel Renteria
Initiative Coordinator
Office of the Attorney General
1300 "I" Street, 17th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Oct 28 2025

INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Re: The People's Right to Contract With Counsel of Choice Act

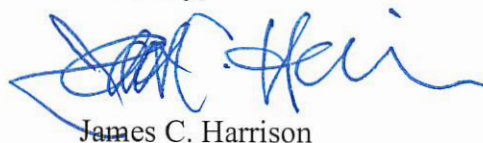
Dear Initiative Coordinator:

In accordance with the requirements of Elections Code section 9001(a), I request that the Attorney General prepare a circulating title and summary of the initiative measure entitled the "People's Right to Contract With Counsel of Choice Act." The text of the measure, a check for \$2,000.00, and the certifications required by Elections Code sections 9001(b) and 9608 are enclosed.

Please direct all correspondence and inquiries regarding this measure to:

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Sincerely,



James C. Harrison

Enclosures

The People's Right to Contract With Counsel of Choice Act

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. TITLE.

This initiative constitutional amendment shall be known and may be cited as "The People's Right to Contract With Counsel of Choice Act."

Section 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

The People of the State of California find and declare as follows:

(a) Every day, thousands of Californians find themselves in need of a lawyer. Some are accident victims who are not able to pay the kind of hourly fees that large corporations pay their attorneys, many of whom charge over \$1,000 *per hour*.

(b) Ordinary citizens require access to the civil justice system to ensure that their rights are protected and that they are fully compensated for their losses and damages, particularly when those claims are against large corporations. Ordinary working people will be denied access to the courts if those same large corporations can interfere with their right to hire an attorney by enacting laws that restrict working people's right to hire counsel of their choice.

(c) Large corporations benefit when ordinary people cannot afford a lawyer. Not surprisingly, large corporations hire lobbyists and sponsor ballot measures to try to limit people's right to contract with the attorney of their choice so that large corporations cannot be held accountable for injuring or harming ordinary people.

(d) Large corporations should not be allowed to dictate whether an ordinary citizen can enter into a contract with a lawyer of their choice. California law already has protections in place that prevent lawyers from charging excessive fees, and statutes should not be passed to further limit the right of ordinary citizens to contract with a lawyer.

(e) Therefore, it is necessary to amend the California Constitution to protect the people's right to hire the attorney of their choice, without interference from large corporations, while at the same time preserving the authority of the courts to prohibit illegal or unreasonable attorneys' fees.

Section 3. RIGHT TO CONTRACT.

Section 33 is hereby added to Article I of the Constitution of the State of California to read:

Section 33. The State shall not deny or interfere with the right of any person to contract with counsel of their choice to protect their legal rights.

SECTION 4. Liberal Construction.

This Act shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes.

SECTION 5. Conflicting Ballot Measures.

(a) In the event that this measure and another measure addressing the rights of persons, including automobile accident victims, to contract with the attorney of their choice appear on the same statewide election ballot, the provisions of the other measure shall be deemed to be in conflict with this measure. Because this measure is a constitutional amendment, whether or not this measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes than a measure deemed to be in conflict with it, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and the provisions of the other measure shall be null and void.

(b) If this measure is approved by the voters but superseded in whole or in part by a conflicting measure approved by the voters at the same election, and the conflicting measure is later held to be invalid, this measure shall be self-executing and given full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Application of Measure to Laws Enacted After January 1, 2026.

This measure shall apply only to laws enacted on or after January 1, 2026, and shall not apply to laws in effect prior to that date, including the authority of the courts to regulate the practice of law and to prohibit illegal or unconscionable fees.