

December 8, 2025

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

Dec 08 2025

INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

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

Dear Initiative Coordinator:

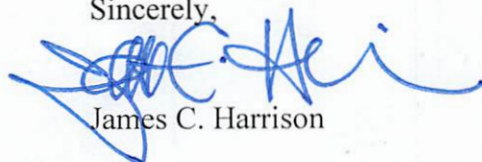
On October 28, 2025, we submitted a proposed statewide initiative titled the "People's Right to Contract With Counsel of Choice Act" ("Initiative") and submitted a request that the Attorney General prepare a circulating title and summary pursuant to section 10(d) of Article II of the California Constitution.

Pursuant to Elections Code section 9002(b), we hereby submit timely amendments to the text of the Initiative. We have also enclosed a redline version showing the differences from the original Initiative. As the proponent of the Initiative, we approve the submission of the amended text to the Initiative and declare that the amendment is reasonably germane to the theme, purpose, and subject of the Initiative. We respectfully request that the Attorney General prepare a circulating title and summary using the amended Initiative.

Please direct all correspondence and inquiries regarding this measure to:

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Sincerely,



James C. Harrison

Enclosures

The People's Right to Choose Their Attorney 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 Choose Their Attorney Act."

Section 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

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

(a) Every day, thousands of hard-working Californians who cannot afford the retainers and hourly fees that large corporations pay for their attorneys find themselves in need of a lawyer. Most of these people are middle class Californians and their families.

(b) You should have a fundamental right of equal access to justice and to choose and contract with the attorney of your choice.

(c) Large corporations benefit greatly when hard-working people and their families cannot afford a lawyer. Not surprisingly, large corporations have worked to pass legislation and sponsor ballot measures to try to limit people's right to choose and contract with the attorney of their choice. Allowing such laws to be passed significantly limits access to legal representation and justice and places hard-working people and their families at a disadvantage.

(d) Large corporations and special interest groups should not be allowed to dictate how you choose to hire an attorney of your choice.

(e) California law already has long standing protections in place that prevent attorneys from charging excessive fees.

(f) Therefore, it is necessary to amend the California Constitution to protect your right to contract with the attorney of your choice, without interference from large corporations and the government, while at the same time preserving existing law and the authority of the courts to prohibit illegal, excessive, and 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 an attorney of their choice to protect or vindicate 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 or other civil litigants, to contract with the attorney of their choice, including but not limited to limits on contingency or other fees, 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 statutory measure deemed to be in conflict with it, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and the provisions of the statutory 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.

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. This measure shall not apply to any civil action in which the government appoints a lawyer for a party to the litigation or to any criminal case.