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December 12, 2005

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INITIATIVE COORDINATOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Via Federal Express

Ms. Tricia Knight
Initiative Coordinator
Office of the Attorney General
State of California
PO Box 994255
Sacramento, CA 94244-25550

Re: Request for Title & Summary for Proposed Initiative

Dear Ms. Knight:

Pursuant to Article II, Section 10(d) of the California Constitution, I am submitting the attached proposed statewide ballot measure to your office and request that you prepare a title and summary of the measure as provided by law. I have also included with this letter the required signed statement under California Elections Code section 9608 and a check in the amount of \$200.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very Truly Yours

Mark W. Bucher

Enclosure

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS

Section 1. Title. This measure shall be known as “The Public Employees’ Right to Approve Use of Union Dues for Political Campaign Purposes Act.”

Section 2. Findings and Declarations.

- (a) Public employees are generally required to join a labor organization or pay fees to the labor organization in lieu of membership.
- (b) Public employee labor organizations operate through dues or fees deducted from their members’ salaries which are paid from public funds.
- (c) Routinely these dues or fees are used in part to support the political objectives of the labor leaders in support of state and local legislative candidates and ballot measures. Public employees often find their dues or fees used to support political candidates or ballot measures they do not agree with.
- (d) It is fundamentally unfair to force public employees to give money to political activities or candidates they do not support.
- (e) Because public money is involved, the public has a right to ensure that public employees have a right to approve the use of their dues or fees to support the political objectives of their labor organization.
- (f) To ensure that public employees have a say whether their dues or fees may be used for political campaign purposes, it is fair and just to require that their consent be obtained in advance.

Section 3. Purpose and Intent. In enacting this measure, it is the intent of the people of the State of California to guarantee the right of public employees to have a say whether their dues and fees may be used for political campaign purposes.

Section 4. Chapter 5.9 (commencing with §85590) is added to Title 9 of the Government Code to read:

85590. (a) No public employee labor organization may use or obtain any portion of dues, agency shop fees, or any other fees paid by members of the labor organization, or individuals who are not members, through payroll deductions or directly, for disbursement to a committee as defined in section 82013, subdivision (a), except upon the written consent of the member or individual who is not a member received within the previous 12 months on a form described by subdivision (c) signed by the member or non-member and an officer of the union.

(b) Subdivision (a) does not apply to any dues or fees collected from members of the labor organization, or individuals who are not members for the benefit of charitable organizations organized under Title 26 United States Code section 501(c)(3), or for health care insurance, or similar purposes intended to directly benefit the specific member of the labor organization or individual who is not a member.

(c) The authorization referred to in subdivision (a) shall be made on the following form, the sole purpose of which is the documentation of such authorization. The form's title shall read, in at least 24-point bold type, "Consent for Political Use of Dues/Fees or Request to Make Political Contributions" and shall state, in at least 14-point bold type, the following specific text.

"Signing this form authorizes your union to use the amount of \$____.00 from each of your dues or agency shop fee payments during the next twelve months as a political contribution or expenditure." ()

Signing this form requests your union to make a deduction of \$____.00 from each of your dues or agency shop fee payments during the next twelve months as a political contribution to the [name of committee]). ()

Check applicable box.

[Name of employee]

[Union Officer]

[Name of Union]

[Date]

[Date]

[Signature]

[Signature]

(d) Any public employee labor organization that uses any portion of dues, agency shop fees, or other fees to make contributions or expenditures under subdivision (a) shall maintain records that include a copy of each authorization obtained under subdivision (c), the amounts and dates funds were actually withheld, the amounts and dates funds were transferred under this subdivision shall not include the employee's home address or telephone number.

(e) Copies of all records maintained under subdivision (d) shall be sent to the commission on request but shall not be subject to the California Public Records Act

(Chapter 3.5 (commencing with section 6250) of Division 7, Title 1 of the Government Code.).

(f) Individuals who do not authorize contributions or expenditures under subdivision (a) may not have their dues, agency shop fees, or other fees raised in lieu of the contribution or expenditure.

(g) If the dues, agency shop fees, or other fees referred to in subdivisions (a) and (d) included an amount for a contribution or expenditure, the dues, agency shop fees, or other fees shall be reduced by that amount for any individual who does not sign an authorization as described under subdivision (a).

(h) The requirements of this section may not be waived by the member or individual and waiver of these requirements may not be made a condition of employment or continued employment.

(i) For the purposes of this section, "agency shop" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 3502.5 of the Government Code on April 1, 1997.

(j) For the purposes of this section, "public employee labor organization" shall be defined as any organization that exists and is constituted for the purpose, in whole or in part, of collective bargaining or of dealing with employees of a public entity concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment, or of other mutual aid or protection.

(k) For the purposes of this section, "public entity" shall mean the state and any agency or political subdivision of the state, including but not limited to cities, counties, cities and counties (including charter cities, charter counties, and charter cities and counties), municipal corporations, school districts, special districts, local and regional agencies, and joint powers agencies.

Section 5. This measure shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purposes.

Section 6. In the event that this measure and another measure or measures relating to the consent of public employees to the use of their payroll deductions or dues being used for political contributions or expenditures without their consent shall appear on the same statewide election ballot, the provisions of the other measures shall be deemed to be in conflict with this measure. In the event that this measure shall receive a greater number of affirmative votes, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and the provisions of the other measures shall be null and void.

Section 7. If any provision of this act, or part thereof, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall not be affected, but shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions are severable.

Section 8. If this measure is approved by the voters but is superseded by another measure on the same ballot receiving a higher number of votes and deemed in conflict with this

measure, and the conflicting measure is subsequently held invalid, it is the intent of the voters that this measure become effective.

Section 9. This measure may be amended to further its purposes by a bill passed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of both houses of the Legislature and signed by the Governor, provided that at least 14 days prior to passage in each house, copies of the bill in final form shall be made available by the clerk of each house to the public and the news media.