

Prop. 75 – Paycheck Deception Act Talking Points

Far from protecting the rights of teachers, nurses, police and firefighters, Prop. 75 is designed to reduce their ability to inform us when politicians would do harm to education, health care and public safety.

Prop. 75 is unnecessary and unfair. Its hidden agenda is a one-sided attempt to weaken public employees so corporations can have more control in state government.

IT'S A POWERGRAB THAT UNFAIRLY TARGETS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

- Corporations already outspend unions in politics by a huge margin. But Proposition 75 does not restrict corporations, which routinely use their shareholders' money for political contributions without their consent. In fact, Prop. 75 will make this imbalance even worse.
- Why does Prop. 75 only restrict public employee unions? Recently, teachers have fought to restore the funding the state borrowed from our public schools, but failed to repay. Nurses have battled against reductions in hospital staffing. Police and firefighters have fought against elimination of survivor's benefits for families of those who die in the line of service.
- Now their opponents are trying to silence them by passing Prop. 75.

WHO IS BEHIND PROP 75?

- Its lead sponsor is Lewis Uhler, a former John Birch Society official who has campaigned for Bush's Social Security privatization plan.
- It's funded by the deceptively-named Small Business Committee of California, which is financed by large corporations including banks, developers and drug companies.
- Backers of Prop. 75 say they want to protect workers rights, but that's not true. Backers of 75 aren't for working people, they want to restrict the voice of working people who stand up against them.

IT'S UNNECESSARY, CURRENT LAW PROTECTS WORKERS

- The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held that unions cannot use a member's dues for political purposes if the member objects.
- Under current law unions must inform workers of their right to opt out of political contributions at any time. And they must send audited financial statements to ensure that no unauthorized dues are used for politics.
- Therefore, only employees who choose to join the union and choose not to opt out of political contributions have their dues used for politics. Consequently, 25% of state employees contribute no money to their union's political activities.

PROP. 75 VIOLATES EMPLOYEES RIGHT TO PRIVACY

- Prop. 75 requires members to sign written, personal disclosure forms that could be circulated in the workplace and would be submitted to a state agency. This could potentially invade an individual's privacy and raise the threat of intimidation against public employees on the job.

Prop. 75 is an unfair power grab by big corporations that will diminish the voice of teachers, nurses, firefighters and police at a time when we need to hear them most.