

ACTION ALERT!

28 July 2009

AB 6 Inhibits Pro-life Initiatives

- OPPOSE -

SITUATION:

Sacramento – AB 6, *Initiatives: paid circulators*, by Assemblywoman Lori Saldana (D-San Diego) would put unjustified and crippling burdens on California's initiative process that is the last hope of Californians to obtain legal protection for the preborn child. AB 6 has passed the state Assembly and is in the state Senate Appropriations committee. **Your calls and letters are needed now.**

BACKGROUND:

Planned Parenthood virtually controls the California legislative process on abortion. The Democratic Party is the state majority party and is fully committed to Planned Parenthood's anti-life/anti-family agenda. The one recourse available to California pro-life citizens is the initiative process. The last 3 parental notification initiatives were narrowly defeated at a cost to Planned Parenthood of \$20 million.

California's initiative process allows 150 days to gather qualification signatures. For a constitutional amendment initiative this requires gathering about 6000 signatures a day. It is virtually impossible to accomplish this without paid petition circulators. Volunteer signature gathering is vital; it saves much-needed dollars for radio and TV advertisements, but rarely has by itself qualified an initiative.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH AB 6?

AB 6 would raise the cost of paid signatures making it increasingly difficult for pro-life and pro-family organizations to qualify initiatives. Under the guise of preventing petition signature fraud, AB 6 requires professional petition firms to register with and pay a yet-to-be-determined fee to the Secretary of State, to instruct every paid petition circulator on state law pertaining to petition circulation, to have every paid circulator submit a signed statement that such instruction has been received, and to provide the Secretary of State with a copy of the training materials used.

But is AB 6 really necessary? Official bill analysis indicates that petition signature fraud in California is uncommon, with the most recent offense conviction being in 2006 when 14 (yes, fourteen) fictitious signatures were submitted by a paid circulator. Indeed, the bill analysis states, "The current signature verification procedure administered by a professional signature circulation firm and election officials may be sufficient to curtail improper signature gathering."

AB 6 is supported by Planned Parenthood and Secretary of State Debra Bowen who is strongly pro-abortion. AB 6 creates increased bureaucracy for unwarranted concern over virtually non-existent petition fraud at a time of state fiscal crisis. AB 6 is an unnecessary, inhibiting, political agenda bill.

TAKE ACTION!

Please contact Senators Christine Kehoe and Dave Cox, Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Senate Appropriations Committee and express your opposition to AB 6. Send your statement opposing AB 6 (organizations please use letterhead) to: Senator Christine Kehoe, State Capitol, Room 5050, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 651-4039; Fax: (916) 327-2188; and Senator Dave Cox, State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 651-4001; Fax: (916) 324-2680, with copy to Cory Botts, Consultant to the Senate Republican Caucus, fax 916-445-3105; Cory.Botts@sen.ca.gov

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