Argument Against Proposition 75

Prop. 75 is unnecessary and unfair. Its hidden agenda is to weaken public employees and strengthen the political influence of big corporations.

Prop. 75 does *not* protect the rights of teachers, nurses, police, and firefighters. Instead it's designed to reduce their ability to respond when politicians would harm education, health care, and public safety.

In 1998, voters rejected a similar proposition and union members voted NO overwhelmingly.

TARGETS TEACHERS, NURSES, FIREFIGHTERS, AND POLICE

Why does 75 target people who take care of all of us?

Recently, teachers fought to restore funding the state borrowed from our public schools, but never repaid. Nurses battled against reductions in hospital staffing to protect patients. Police and firefighters fought against elimination of survivor's benefits for families of those who die in the line of duty.

Prop. 75 is an unfair attempt to diminish the voice of teachers, nurses, firefighters, and police at a time when we need to hear them most.

Prop. 75 *only* restricts public employees. It does *not* restrict corporations—even though corporations spend shareholders' money on politics. The nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics says corporations already outspend unions in politics nationally by 24 to 1. Prop. 75 will make this imbalance even worse.

CURRENT LAW ALREADY PROTECTS WORKERS

No public employee in California can be forced to become a member of a union. Non-members pay fees to the union for collective bargaining services, but the U.S. Supreme Court has consistently ruled that unions cannot use these fees for political purposes. The union must send financial statements to the worker to ensure that no unauthorized fees are used for politics. Today, 25% of state employees contribute no money to their union's political activities.

Union members already have the right to democratically vote their leaders into and out of office and to establish their own internal rules concerning political contributions. *Prop. 75 takes away union members' right to make their own decisions and substitutes a government-imposed bureaucratic process.*

VIOLATES EMPLOYEES' PRIVACY

Prop. 75 requires members who want to participate to sign a government-imposed personal disclosure form that could be circulated in the workplace. This form, with information about individual employees and their political contributions, could be accessed by a state agency—an invasion of individual privacy which could raise the possibility of intimidation and retaliation against employees on the job.

WHO'S BEHIND PROP. 75?

Its lead sponsor is Lewis Uhler, a former John Birch Society activist, who campaigned for Bush's Social Security privatization plan.

It's funded by the deceptively named Small Business Action Committee, which is financed by large corporations.

Backers of 75 say they want to protect workers' rights, but *that's not true.* They're *against* the minimum wage, *against* protecting employee health care, *against* the 8-hour day. Backers of 75 aren't for working people, they want to silence working people who stand against them.

VOTE NO ON 75

Please help stop this unfair attempt to apply restrictions to unions of public employees, such as teachers, nurses, firefighters, police, and sheriffs that would apply to no one else.

LOU PAULSON, President
California Professional Firefighters

BARBARA KERR, President
California Teachers Association

SANDRA MARQUES, RN, Local President
United Nurses Associations of California

Rebuttal to Argument Against Proposition 75

Despite what union leaders would like you to believe, public opinion surveys show that nearly 60% of union households SUPPORT PROPOSITION 75.

Proposition 75 is NOT about the political influence of unions or corporations—it's simply about INDIVIDUAL CHOICE.

A nonpartisan employee rights group measured the results of a *Paycheck Protection* measure in Washington State. Its findings showed that *85% of teachers chose NOT to participate in their union's political activities.*

Consider the recent actions by the prison guard union and teacher union—is this fair?

Despite opposition from more than 4,000 prison guards, their union increased dues by $18 million over two years to pay for political campaigns and to give to politicians.

WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP, the teachers union recently increased dues by $50 million over three years in order to fund political campaigns.

This is NOT a fair choice—it's not what our teachers, police officers, firefighters, and other public employees deserve.

YES ON 75 will simply ask public employee union members for their approval before automatically using dues for political purposes.

Proposition 75 will NOT prevent unions from collecting political contributions, but those contributions will be CLEARLY VOLUNTARY. It will hold public employee union leaders more ACCOUNTABLE to their membership.

There are no hidden agendas. No power grabs. Just protecting workers' rights. *Read the official Title and Summary for yourself—it's really that simple.*

VOTE YES ON 75—let individuals, not union leaders, decide whether their dues should be spent on politics.

JAMES GALLEY, Past Vice President
AFSCME/AFL-CIO, Local 127

ARCHIE CAUGHELL, Member
Service Employees International Union

PAMELA SMITH, Member
California Teachers Association