

Paycheck Deception Initiative 2011

This initiative is misleading, deceptive, and full of unintended consequences that hurt us all. The truth is that Wall Street and other corporate backers of this initiative intentionally limited the voice of middle class workers and small businesses, but wrote in a giant loophole for big corporations. Instead of reforming campaign finance laws, this initiative creates more problems and wastes our tax dollars.

IMPORTANT POINTS

Not What It Seems

- This initiative claims to be about stopping special interest money in politics, but instead it's a trick that tries to deceive voters into passing a law that would change the rules to benefit wealthy corporate interests at the expense of middle class workers and their unions. That's why independent good government groups with a long track record of fighting special interests oppose it.
- This deceptive initiative was carefully written by an attorney for big corporate interests to appear as if it limits corporations and unions equally. But when you read the details, you will see this measure does not limit corporate contributions at all.
- In fact, this measure creates a big loophole that allows corporations to continue to make political contributions without restrictions. By only limiting workers and unions, more power will be given to corporations to spend as much as they want on lobbyists and influence politicians.

Singles Out Middle Class Workers for Unfair Treatment

- Big corporations, their high-paid lobbyists and their political friends in the state legislature are scapegoating teachers, nurses, firefighters and other union workers to distract us from the fact that while middle class Californians struggle, big corporations are still getting rich. This initiative gives the big corporations a free pass at a time when their profits are at a record high and they are getting large tax breaks.
- The initiative does nothing to stop big corporations, elected officials or CEOs from contributing to political campaigns or lobbying to sway legislation or influence government contracts. But it intentionally limits the ability of workers who provide services.
- It is an attack on the middle class and attempts to silence the voices of teachers who fight for lower class size, firefighters who fight to lower emergency response times, and nurses who fight for safe patient staffing ratios in hospitals.

Creates More Problems than it Solves and Wastes Taxpayer Money

- Union members already have the ability to stop their dues money from being used in political campaigns. This measure attempts to fix something that doesn't need fixing to hide its real intent – to give corporations more influence over politics and to stop unions from speaking out.
- This initiative is unnecessary and would cost California taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is an unfunded mandate that increases the cost to government at a time when vital services like education, health care and public safety are being slashed.
- The measure has too many unintended consequences, putting us all at risk. If this flawed initiative passes, teachers would be prevented from advocating for students, nurses would be prevented from advocating on issues like appropriate patient staffing levels and firefighters could not advocate for training and equipment to deal with industrial disasters or forest fires.