

A Bill In Opposition to Proposition 32, the "Paycheck Protection" Initiative

Authored by Senator Klein Lieu

Sponsored by Senator Klein Lieu, Senator Sidronio Jacobo, Senator Megan Majd, Senator Nolan

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WHEREAS, Proposition 32 is an initiative that would put restrictions on a corporation's or union's ability to contribute to political campaigns;¹ and

WHEREAS, these restrictions would lead to politically impotent unions whom have played an important role in fighting for the interests of the working class; and

WHEREAS, unions are not special interests, but rather members of our community with voices that deserve to be heard; and

WHEREAS, proponents of Proposition 32 also claim that it would prevent corporations from funding political campaigns; and

WHEREAS, preventing corporations from contributing to political campaigns has already been struck down by the Supreme Court by the *Citizens United V. Federal Elections Commission* decision and would therefore be an ineffective mechanism from stopping corporations from influencing the political process;² and

WHEREAS, Business Super PACS (Political Action Committees) would be exempt from the rules established by Proposition 32, a group that has spent more than \$95,000,000 influencing California's electoral process since 2005;³ and

¹ "California's Proposition 32, the 'Paycheck Protection' Initiative," Ballotpedia, accessed September 1st 2012, [http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/California_Proposition_32,_the_%22Paycheck_Protection%22_Initiative_\(2012\)](http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/California_Proposition_32,_the_%22Paycheck_Protection%22_Initiative_(2012))

² "Citizens United Versus the Federal Elections Commission," Cornell University Law School, Accessed September 1st 2012, <http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/08-205.ZS.html>

³ "Proposition 32 Political Contributions By Payroll Deduction Contributes to Candidates Initiative Statute: Arguments Against Proposition 32," California Voter Guide, accessed September 1st 2012, <http://vig.cdn.sos.ca.gov/2012/general/pdf/32-arg-rebuttals.pdf>

WHEREAS, supporting campaign finance reform initiatives is fundamental for the future of American democracy, these potential reforms must treat actors equally, but which Proposition 32 does not; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Associated Students of the University (ASUC) officially reject Proposition 32 as an affirmation that union members are not special interests but rather members of our community with voices that deserve to be heard; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the ASUC President, External Affairs Vice President, and the Senate be directed to send a campus-wide educational email to the student body explaining the pros and cons of Proposition 32 and the importance of voting in the 2012 election.