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California State Senate

SENATOR
JEFF STONE, PHARM.D.
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



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September 19, 2017

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Requested Veto of AB 83 (Santiago)

Dear Governor Brown:

I would like to respectfully request that you veto AB 83 (Santiago) that allows employees of the Judicial Council to unionize. This bill is very similar to AB 874 that you vetoed last year.

In addition to the significant fiscal impact of this legislation (\$1 million a year just to comply with the provisions of the bill), the California Constitution is fairly clear that employees of the Judicial Branch are "at will" and not subject to civil service protections afforded to regular state workers.

It should be remembered that "at will" status for judicial employees is critical to ensure a fair judiciary. If those charged with serving as a check and balance to the Executive and the Legislature are given civil service protection, a new class of "super-employee" could easily develop in that people employed by the Judiciary could exercise ultimate authority with no risk of reprisal or termination.

Finally, who would ratify a collective bargaining agreement amongst Judiciary employees? The Legislature? The Governor? Since the Judiciary is responsible for being the final resort of the legality of decisions made by the Governor and the Legislature, who would judge the judges?

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you veto AB 83. It's a bill California can't afford.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Stone".

Jeff Stone
State Senator, 28th District