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California State Senate

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



September 19, 2017

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

RE: Requested Veto of AB 249 (Mullin)

Dear Governor Brown:

I would like to respectfully request that you veto AB 249 (Mullin) that changes the disclosure requirements on political advertisements to the point where free speech is largely constrained.

AB 249 requires the top three donors to a committee sponsoring a political advertisement to be "prominently" displayed on the advertisement, and that is not necessarily objectionable. The problem is that labor unions are exempted from this requirement, and an equal playing field in the disclosure game becomes even more impossible under this legislation.

Instead of tinkering around with disclosing who paid for what on political advertisements, a better solution to making sure the public has access to information of who funds candidate controlled committees and political action committees within 24 hours.

AB 249 is a fairly blatant attempt to shield the top donors to labor unions while forcing everyone else to fully disclose donors who may be reluctant to give if they fear reprisal from government officials. After all, there is a reason that the Federalist Papers were penned by anonymously by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay.

We all want disclosure of campaign contributions, but AB 249 is not the right answer, and it doesn't even begin to answer the right question. I respectfully request that you veto AB 249.

Sincerely,

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

Jeff Stone
State Senator, 28th District