

CSEA *Union* NEWS

Paycheck Deception Initiative may be headed to ballot

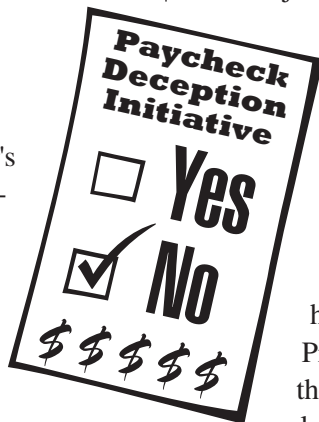
Backers of the Paycheck Deception Initiative say they've collected enough voter signatures to place the measure on next year's ballot. They said that they will begin submitting 900,000 petition signatures to election officials. Sample counts must project that roughly 505,000 of the signatures submitted are valid.

The initiative, with a long title stating it "Prohibits Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction. Prohibitions on Contributions to Candidates. Initiative Statute," is actually designed to silence the voices of workers and strengthen the political influence of giant multi-national corporations.

In deceptively simple language, this initiative seems to treat both corporations and workers equally. It appears to ban all "special interest money" from politics. In reality, this initiative would put a chokehold on working families' participation in the political process and further tilt the balance of power in favor of wealthy interests.

This initiative:

- Takes away workers' right to pool our money to have a strong voice in the political decisions that affect our jobs, families and communities.
- Bans political contributions collected through workers' payroll deductions, but not the use of corporate profits in the political arena. That is a huge loophole
- Would pave the way for more cutbacks in our standard of living. Unions are among the only strong advocates for workers and the middle class against Wall Street, multinational corporations and unfair trade "partners" that have cost millions of Americans their jobs.



- Is a rehash of initiatives that have already been rejected by Californians. Attempts to enact legislation similar to the Paycheck Deception Initiative have failed in recent years, including a 2005 ballot measure backed by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

TSB 202 would put it on the November ballot

Paycheck Deception supporters were hoping to place the initiative on the June Primary Election ballot, when elections for the Republican presidential nominee will take place. However, Gov. Jerry Brown signed SB 202, which requires all ballot initiatives to be voted on during November general elections.

No matter when the Paycheck Deception Initiative goes on the ballot, it's important to let your neighbors, friends and family know the real purpose of this harmful initiative. Make sure to let them know that a vote for the Paycheck Deception Initiative is a vote to silence the voice of working families in California's political process.

Governor signed Diastat bill

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed SB 161, which would allow classified school employees to volunteer to inject epileptic students with Diastat. CSEA and a coalition of major labor and healthcare organizations opposed this bill.

Although the governor signed the bill, CSEA and its partners who stood against it obtained several amendments to protect school employees. CSEA will soon be releasing guidance about the bill for classified school employees.

