



## **Coalition Member Testimonials**

**Helen Hutchison**

**President, League of Women Voters of California**

“As longtime advocates for open government, the League of Women Voters supports the California Legislature Transparency Act. The League believes that our democracy is stronger when more people participate, and that in order to have meaningful participation, we need to have adequate notice of actions, open meetings, and access to public records. Having advance notice of the content of bills slated for legislative action and recordings of legislative proceedings available in a timely fashion greatly enhances active public participation.” said Helen Hutchison, League of Women Voters of California President.

**Alice Huffman**

**President, California State Conference of the NAACP**

“Giving all people the opportunity to review, debate, and contribute to laws that impact us is our goal – a goal that will be furthered by passage of the California Legislature Transparency Act.”

**Rob Lapsley**

**President, California Business Roundtable**

“The California Legislature Transparency Act is a simple but critically important reform. It mandates that the public can actually read proposed laws before they are voted on. This will help ensure good public policy for all Californians.”

**Terry Francke**

**Founder, Californians Aware**

"These changes will transform public awareness of and participation in California's legislative process in three modest but long overdue ways. The 72-hour sunshine rule will end the majority's ability to rush a pig in a poke to the Governor's desk at the end of the legislative year, with many if not most lawmakers and the entire public unaware of what's being voted on. The electronic recording and archiving of all committee and floor proceedings will add unprecedented context to the record of how bills were understood and intended at the time of passage—an often key issue for the courts that must interpret them—as well as opening the public's window on every hearing and debate, not just those the leadership wants to showcase.

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And the new citizen spectators' right to make their own video and audio recording of these hearings and debates will subject lawmakers to the same eyewitness exposure they've imposed on state and local bodies for decades under the Brown Act."

**Allan Zarembeg**  
**President and CEO, California Chamber of Commerce**

"When legislation that affects jobs and the economy is decided upon by only a select few and passed in the dead of night, it can create significant obstacles for business growth which impacts real people. CalChamber supports the California Legislature Transparency Act, which will create transparency in the legislative process."

**Jon Coupal**  
**President, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association**

"The California Legislature Transparency Act will help ensure taxpayers are protected against costly, ill-advised legislation that is all too often rushed through the process without proper vetting and debate. This measure will bring every new proposal into the light of day so the public, and not just the special interests, have a chance to weigh in."

**Alice Huffman**  
**President, NAACP California**

Giving all people the opportunity to review, debate, and contribute to laws that impact us is our goal – a goal that will be furthered by passage of the California Legislature Transparency Act.

**James P. Mayer**  
**President and CEO, California Forward**

"As longtime advocates of creating more transparency and accountability in our state government, California Forward is pleased that voters will have the opportunity to approve this measure at the polls in November. The California Legislature Transparency Act will significantly improve governance in California and go a long way toward reducing the influence of a few special interest groups over legislation that impacts all Californians.



**Peter Scheer**  
**First Amendment Coalition**

“The First Amendment Coalition has long opposed the California Legislature’s practice of voting on bills, submitted or materially amended at the last minute, before members have had a chance to read and understand them, and without any opportunity for the press and public to weigh in. Such practices, effectively substituting secret lawmaking for an open legislative process, make a mockery of democracy. The California Legislature Transparency Act would curb these abuses by requiring that that all bills, in their final form, be published in full text on the internet for at least 72 hours before the Legislature can vote on them.

**Gary Toebben**  
**President and CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce**

“The Los Angeles business community relies on our elected lawmakers to represent our best interests at the State Capitol. Too often, major changes happen last minute, taking away the public’s ability for thorough review. The California Legislature Transparency Act will shed daylight on the legislative process and allow everyone an equal opportunity to weigh in before legislation gets passed.”

**Nathan Ahle**  
**President and CEO, Fresno Chamber of Commerce.**

“Too often legislation that impacts jobs, our economy, and families is passed with little to no chance for public input or discussion, which can lead to negative consequences. The California Legislature Transparency Act will help ensure all Californians have access to our legislative process, which will ultimately lead to better policies for our state.”

**Tom Scott**  
**National Federation of Independent Business-California**

“Every single day small businesses face the threat of additional legislation and regulation from Sacramento which often add to the cost of doing business in California. Greater transparency in the Legislature is necessary to help level the playing field and protect small business.”

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**Kathay Feng**  
**California Common Cause**

“The California Legislature Transparency Act helps further the mission of Common Cause by creating a more open, honest, and accountable government. It will empower the public to participate and have their voices heard in our political process.”

**Steven Greenhut, *San Diego Union-Tribune***

“This measure would seriously shake up the Capitol. Requiring 72 hours notice would give the media and public time to digest what’s being proposed. It gives supporters and opponents time to make their case. It provides a disincentive for legislators to try to sneak through funding for bizarre things given the likelihood that someone will discover the language. The recording requirements will assure that public hearings are available to the public before it’s too late to do anything about it.”

**Sacramento Bee Editorial Board**

“Any red-blooded, flag-waving politician would declare that the public has a right to know how government works and that transparency is vital to a functioning democracy. ... One of the promising proposals is the California Legislature Transparency Act ... It’s controversial in some quarters, but it shouldn’t be.

The initiative would require that all bills be published and publicly available for at least 72 hours before they are voted upon, the better to prevent late-night, end-of-session power plays that leave all but a few insiders in the dark. Though they voice support for the notion, legislators haven’t quite been able to stick to the 72-hour notice. Perhaps the threat of a well-funded initiative will help.

Another provision would require that video and audio recordings be made of all legislative hearings, and be made readily available on Internet. Some lawmakers will have difficulty swallowing this one. The Assembly has made it a misdemeanor to use the tax-funded videos of its proceedings for political or commercial purposes. They need to get rid of that law and step into the light.

Certainly, there is a risk that videos depicting legislators acting badly at public hearings would find their way into campaign ads. The solution is to not act badly.”

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