



CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION  
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April 1, 2009

Honorable Leland Yee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol Room 4074  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Yee:

RE: Support SB 219 (Yee)

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Newspaper Publishers Association to express the Association's support of your **SB 219**, which would provide whistleblowers who work for the University of California with the same ability to sue for damages when they are retaliated against as may other state employees who report malfeasance.

Newspaper reporters rely on whistleblowers who, by virtue of their positions, frequently provide information regarding misconduct by UC officials and employees. Recent newspaper stories that chronicled payments by UC to high ranking employees for houses and secret raises that violated the UC's own rules and which led to significant legislative reform would not have been brought to light without information obtained from whistleblowers.

The need for this legislation arises from a recent California Supreme Court decision, *Miklosy v. the Regents of the University of California*, which found that UC employees who are retaliated against because they report wrongdoing cannot sue for damages under the state's Whistleblower Protection Act so long as UC reviews a whistleblower's retaliation claim and rejects it in a timely fashion.

SB 219 closes this loophole in the law. If this important protection is not extended to UC employees who continue to face reprisal for reporting bad behavior, it is likely these individuals will no longer be willing to come forward, thus depriving journalists, the legislature and the public of essential information about one of it's most high profile institutions.

CNPA applauds your leadership in protecting these valuable sources of information and recognizing the vital role they serve in ensuring that all government agencies are accountable to the public. We look forward to working with you to obtain the Governor's signature on SB 219.

Sincerely,

James W. Ewert,  
CNPA Legal Counsel

cc: Anthony Allegretti, CNPA President/CEO, Main Street Media Group, Gilroy  
Harold W. Fuson, Jr. CNPA Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman, Executive Vice President, Copley Press, Inc  
Jack Bates, CNPA Executive Director  
Thomas W. Newton, CNPA General Counsel  
Gloria Megino-Ochoa, Deputy Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee