



CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
CNPA Services, Inc.

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August 26, 2009

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
California State Governor
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Support SB 219 (Yee)

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I am writing on behalf of the California Newspaper Publishers Association to urge your signature approval of SB 219 by Senator Leland Yee. SB 219 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 the 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, your office and the public of essential information about one of it's most high profile institutions.

For these reasons, CNPA respectfully urges your signature approval of SB 219.

Sincerely,



James W. Ewert,
CNPA Legal Counsel

cc: Honorable Leland Yee

Anthony Allegretti, CNPA President/CEO, Main Street Media Group, Gilroy
Karlene Goller, CNPA Governmental Affairs Committee Chairwoman, Vice President and Deputy
General Counsel, Los Angeles Times
Jack Bates, CNPA Executive Director
Thomas W. Newton, CNPA General Counsel