

April 4, 2017

Honorable Assembly Member Matthew Harper
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 92626

Dear Assembly Member Harper:

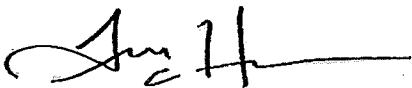
The Freedom Foundation proudly supports AB 1174, which would make California a right-to-work state. The Freedom Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and its mission is to advance individual liberty, free enterprise, and limited, accountable government. It accomplishes these goals through grassroots advocacy, policy research, and litigation.

Today, most states allow its citizens to work without being forced to join a labor union. There are compelling legal and policy reasons for California to join the national trend. First, a right-to-work law would protect workers' constitutional rights. In *Harris v. Quinn*, 134 S.Ct. 2618 (2014) and *Knox v. SEIU 1000*, 567 U.S. 298 (2012), the Supreme Court recognized that compulsory union fees pose a grave danger to workers' First Amendment rights. The Court explained in *Harris* and *Knox* that forcing workers to pay agency fees to a public union is tantamount to forcing an employee to subsidize union speech—speech which a worker may disagree with. A right-to-work bill would alleviate these major constitutional concerns. Second, AB 1174 will be a boon for California's economy. Studies show that right-to-work states experience faster economic growth than states that have forced unionism, like California currently is.

Concerns about right-to-work bills are overstated. AB 1174 will not destroy unions. Even in the most conservative right-to-work states, unions are fighting for their members' interests. The difference in right-to-work states is that unions must demonstrate to members and potential members their worth—just as any other trade organization must.

Unions ought to attract members by showing their value; this is especially true regarding unions when workers' constitutional rights are at stake. Supporting AB 1174 is the right thing for all Californians and our organization strongly supports this bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting the Freedom Foundation.

Kind Regards,



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CC: Lorie Alvarez,
Committee on Labor and Employment