



March 8, 2019

The Honorable Ben Allen
State Capitol, Room 4076
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 47 (Allen) Initiative, referendum, and recall petitions: disclosures – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Allen:

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support SB 47, the Petition DISCLOSE Act. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization representing one million seniors and their families through our 270+ affiliated organizations.

Petition signature gatherers, often paid, descend in pestilential numbers upon Californians before elections. They press voters to sign petitions for a bewildering range of measures and voters usually have no idea of who is backing the petition. SB 47 will require the top three real funders to be shown on the petition or, alternatively, be available on an "Official Top Funders" sheet to be provided by the signature gatherers. While this may or may not abate the plague of signature gatherers, it will allow voters to know who backs the petitions and thus gauge whether a petition will or won't be beneficial.

Petitions were conceived as a tool to promote democracy, but the emergence of paid signature gatherers has made petitions yet another tool for the proverbial "1 percent" and a nuisance to the people of California. We hope SB 47 will provide some relief.

Therefore, CARA supports SB 47 and thanks you for introducing this important legislation and also for your continuing support of disclosure. Our members and organization look forward to working with you to pass it. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 415-533-5244.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly
Legislative Director
415-533-5244