



1750 Ocean Park Boulevard, #200, Santa Monica, CA 90405 - 4938  
Tel: 310-392-0522 • Fax: 310-392-8874 • Net: consumerwatchdog.org

July 17, 2007

Assemblymember Mark Leno  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 381 (Calderon) - OPPOSE**

Dear Assemblymember Leno:

The Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights (FTCR) opposes SB 381 (Calderon), a bill that will limit the information available to voters about the money political candidates solicit from donors.

SB 381 would weaken disclosures under the Political Reform Act by increasing the amount that triggers reporting thresholds for contributions to non-profits or other non-campaign entities made at the behest of political candidates. The bill would also lengthen the amount of time a candidate has to report such contributions.

Any donation request made by a politician is an opportunity for a contributor to gain that politician's ear. At the very least, donors gain goodwill when they make a donation to a candidate's pet cause. At worst, these contributions can be used to directly benefit the candidate.

If anything, the legislature should be looking to increase disclosure and transparency of contributions made at the request of candidates. We would urge you to lower the required reporting threshold to a level that more closely mirrors campaign contribution reports, and make "behest of" contribution disclosures easily accessible online.

SB 381 is about limiting the information available to the public, not 'clarifying' existing law. We urge your NO vote.

Sincerely,

Carmen Balber

cc Assembly Appropriations Committee Members