

**California Labor Federation**

AFL-CIO

www.workingcalifornia.org

Headquarters: 600 Grand Ave
Suite 410
Oakland, CA 94610-3561

510.663.4000 tel
510.663.4099 fax

1127 11th Street
Suite 425
Sacramento, CA 95814-3809

916.444.3676 tel
916.444.7693 fax

3303 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 415
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1798

213.736.1770 tel
213.736.1777 fax

July 18, 2011

Governor Edmund G. Brown
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 459 (Hill) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing to urge your signature on AB 459 (Hill). This bill puts California at the forefront of the national effort to address the shortcomings of our current electoral system for electing the President of the United States. As we have seen several times in our nation's history, it is possible for a candidate for be elected President without winning the most popular votes. The long term effect of this is that it can lead to voters feeling disenfranchised and losing faith in our democratic institutions.

The current system also forces candidates to spend all their time and attention talking to voters in a handful of "battleground" states. In California's case, this has meant that for the last several presidential elections California's voters have been mostly ignored by the presidential candidates in the general election. In most cases, the only time we in California see presidential candidates is when they make brief visits to raise campaign funds from wealthy donors. AB 459 will change that dynamic and force candidates to appeal to every Californian for their vote, not just ask a handful of Californians for their money.

This legislation preserves the Electoral College, while reforming it so that it always reflects the nationwide choice of the people in all 50 states. The bill ensures that every vote will matter in every state in every presidential election.

AB 459 is not a partisan measure seeking to give one political party an advantage. It has bi-partisan support in California and the national popular vote effort has support from prominent Democrats and Republicans across the nation.

I urge you to sign AB 459 (Hill) into law. It is a common sense reform that is good for the United States of America and good for California.

Sincerely,

Art Pulaski
Executive Secretary Treasurer
BB: sm
OPEIU 3 AFL CIO (31)

Cc: Gareth Elliot, Governor's Office, Legislative Affairs
Assemblyman Jerry Hill