



CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SENATOR ART TORRES (RET.), CHAIRMAN

MAN06.24

SUPPORTING ATTORNEY GENERAL BILL LOCKYER'S LAWSUITS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO VOTING PLACES FOR DISABLED CALIFORNIANS

WHEREAS: The presidential elections in 2000 and 2004 clearly demonstrated that voting rights in our country are not always secure for every American and the letter of the law that “every vote counts and every vote be counted” is not always followed; and surveys conducted during the March and November 2002 statewide elections by the office of the Attorney General, with the assistance of the Independent Living Centers, revealed that Kern and Santa Cruz Counties appeared to have exceptionally large numbers of disability access violations at their polling places as well as polling places that were altogether inaccessible to disabled voters; and

WHEREAS: Attorney General Bill Lockyer recently brought lawsuits against Kern County and Santa Cruz County only after three years of unsuccessful negotiations aimed at convincing the two counties to voluntarily comply with existing state and federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) laws for future elections; and

WHEREAS: A successful outcome in these cases will greatly increase the likelihood that every California county will move quickly to provide accessible polling places for every California voter; and the Attorney General's efforts come at a time when the fundamental right to enforce the ADA is increasingly under attack by interests opposed to ADA compliance in the private sector

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the California Democratic Party fully supports these lawsuits by Attorney General Bill Lockyer, reiterates its strong support for existing state and federal ADA statutes, and will continue the fight to keep the ADA effective and enforceable.

Submitted by Senator Art Torres (Ret.),
Chairman of the California Democratic Party

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Adopted by the Executive Board
Of the California Democratic Party
At Its Executive Board Meeting
Manhattan Beach Marriott Hotel
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