



PRESIDENT  
**NAN ARON**

CHAIR  
**ANNE HELEN HESS**

August 22, 2013

Assemblymember Mike Gatto  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0043  
FAX: (916) 319-2143

**RE: SB 27 (Correa) – Support**

I am writing to urge your support of SB 27, which allows for meaningful public disclosure of the funding of political and ballot measure activity by nonprofit organizations without unnecessarily burdening legitimate nonprofit organizations that want to speak out on environmental, economic, social justice, health, access to reproductive care, violence prevention, and other important issues that protect and strengthen the public good.

Alliance for Justice is the leading expert on the legal framework for nonprofit advocacy efforts, providing definitive information, resources, and technical assistance that encourages organizations and their funding partners to fully exercise their right to be active participants in the democratic process. Since 2004, we have worked with over 1,200 small, medium and large nonprofit organizations in California and have provided free legal coaching to 125 progressive nonprofit organizations on ballot measure activity in California since 2010. Our hands-on work with nonprofits trying to comply with the state's campaign finance laws has taught us that increased transparency often results in new administrative burdens. These burdens have the potential to chill legitimate advocacy by smaller nonprofits in particular, due to their limited resources. A nonprofit may by financial necessity conclude that complying with increasingly complex regulations governing ballot measure advocacy is too expensive, and decide to sit out campaigns, to the detriment of statewide and local policies—and more importantly, to the detriment of individuals, families, and communities throughout the state. We, therefore, work to ensure that all proposed policies do not unnecessarily impede legitimate and important participation in our democratic process.

Nonprofit organizations provide one of the most important vehicles through which ordinary citizens may band together to participate in the political and ballot measure processes. We hope you will support SB 27 because while it provides useful information, it recognizes the important role of nonprofit organizations in promoting democratic participation by all citizens. For these reasons, I urge request your support for AB 27.

Sincerely,

Melissa Mikesell, Alliance for Justice West Coast Office

CC: Senator Lou Correa, Fax: (916) 323-2323

CC: Senator Norma Torres, Chair Senate Elections Committee, Fax: (916) 445-2496