

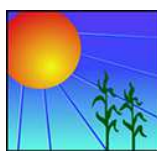
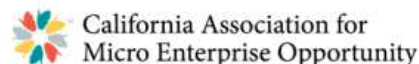
# CalNonprofits

California's nonprofits & the communities we serve

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF NONPROFITS



Legal Aid of San Bernardino



SISTAHFRIENDS - Professional Counseling for the Woman of Color



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Veto Request for SB 549 (Hall)

*The organizations' whose logos are shown on the first page are joined by the following organizations:*

ACROSS  
Affordable Housing Services  
Alameda Homeless Network  
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Cottonwood Community Park  
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Freedom To Live  
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Making Change For Children  
Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association  
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Smartsville Church Restoration Fund, Inc.  
The Law Office of Cameron Holland  
The Roshni Centre for Women  
Ukiah Valley Association for Habitation  
Ward Economic Development Corporation

September 16, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: VETO request - Senate Bill 549, Charitable Raffles (Hall)**

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the undersigned organizational and individual members of CalNonprofits – more than one hundred California charity leaders – we write to offer our shared concerns with Senate Bill 549 and urge your veto.

CalNonprofits is a statewide policy alliance of nearly 10,000 organizations, representing and promoting California's growing nonprofit sector. The primary purpose of CalNonprofits – and the reason our organizations are members – is to work to bring the full power of nonprofits to strengthening communities by speaking with the voice of California nonprofits to the legislature, government agencies, philanthropy, and the public.

Our sector was engaged in a multi-stakeholder process which in 2000 resulted in the enactment of a law requiring that 90 percent of the gross receipts from any raffle, conducted by a private, nonprofit eligible organization be directed to "beneficial and charitable purposes." Current law allows all charities to hold raffles and raise much-needed funds to support their mission-based activities – with a maximum raffle winner payout of 10 percent of the collected donations.

SB 549 would create a carve-out with special rules for an exclusive set of nonprofit organizations affiliated with major league sports teams. According to SB 549, only these organizations would be authorized to profit from raffles that would allow up to 50 percent of raffle receipts to be awarded to a winner. All other charities – the overwhelming majority of the 72,000 nonprofit organizations in California – would be required to follow the 90/10 rules.

Current law ensures that the primary purpose of any charitable raffle is to benefit a charity. Raffles with a 50/50 split move away from that intent, and may inadvertently put more focus on gambling to win a cash prize.

Some nonprofits may be comfortable with holding such raffles, and others may not. But we strongly believe that laws governing charitable raffles should be tightly crafted with input from stakeholders throughout the sector and should treat charities equally.

We thank you for looking out for these serious concerns of the charitable sector by vetoing SB 549.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director  
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