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October 6, 2010

TO: Members of the State Senate

I am writing on behalf of the California Correctional Peace Officers Association to inform you of our strong opposition to the Big 5 agreement on pension "reform" as a part of this year's budget.

CCPOA recognizes that for collective bargaining to succeed, both labor and management need to work hard to come to an agreement. Since 2007, we have been unable to convince the Administration to comply with the Dills Act and work out a contract that meets the needs of our members and the state.

CCPOA recognizes the difficult financial circumstances that now face the state. We have provided some of you with an offer that we believe meets the state's needs for budgetary savings, the Governor's need for retirement reform, and our members' needs to be under a contract that establishes basic worker protections.

True collective bargaining entails a give and take by both parties. As such, we are strongly opposed to any legislative attempt to reform pensions and reduce our members' compensation without reinstating our contract with the state.

State collective bargaining law already tilts in the direction of the employer. To further tilt that relationship in favor of the state will have long-term negative effect on collective bargaining and public safety.

CCPOA is committed to reaching an agreement with the Legislature that meets your needs. We look forward to a dialogue which results in a collective bargaining agreement meeting the needs of all parties. Absent that agreement, we are strongly opposed to the "Big 5" proposal as it relates to retirement "reform".

Sincerely,

Chuck Alexander  
State Executive Vice President  
California Correctional Peace Officers Association