



Peace and Freedom Party of California

Legislative Committee

Kevin Akin, Riverside; Mary Lou Finley, San Diego; Dave Kadlecsek, Vice Chair, Sacramento; Tom Lacey, Secretary, San Francisco;
Debra Reiger, Sacramento; John Reiger, Chair, Sacramento; Maureen Smith, Santa Cruz; Alice Stek, Los Angeles; C. T. Weber, Legislative Liaison, Sacramento.

August 31, 2023

Honorable Senator Anthony J. Portantino
1021 O Street, Suite 7630
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Subject: SB 799 (Portantino, Durazo, Holden) Unemployment insurance, trade disputes, and eligibility for benefits - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Peace and Freedom Party of California to strongly support Senate Bill 799.

Workers don't want to go on strike. Workers are forced to go on strike by corporate owners (and their union-busting consultants) who calculate that they can underpay, mistreat, and abuse their workers to increase profits. When workers can't take it anymore, and only then, they become willing to strike.

One bit of abuse workers suffer in most states today, including California, is that when they are forced out on strike they cannot draw on the unemployment insurance for which they (through their employers) have been paying every workday for years. In New York and New Jersey, striking workers now are able to collect unemployment payments after a strike has gone on for a certain period. This policy is being considered in the legislatures in Massachusetts and Connecticut as well.

And now, Senate Bill 799 presents California legislators with a choice. Will they vote for fairness for striking workers, and decent treatment of their families? Or will they vote to continue to put the government on the side of the employers, to cheat and abuse and starve out workers to defeat their unions? This is a choice each of you must make.

Please, side with justice. Side with working people. Please pass SB 799. Thank you.

To discuss our position on this bill please contact me Kevin Akin at 951-675-2813 (mobile) or John Reiger at reigers@earthlink.net

Sincerely,

Kevin Akin

Kevin Akin
Legislative Committee Member
Peace and Freedom Party of California

John C. Reiger

John C. Reiger
Legislative Committee Chairperson
Peace and Freedom Party of California