

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, California's prison system is severely overburdened, and rehabilitation programs can be a viable alternative for offenders of certain drug-related crimes; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 5, a statewide ballot initiative in the upcoming November 2008 election, is a misguided attempt to reform the prison system through a dramatic expansion of rehabilitation programs without key accountability measures; and

WHEREAS, under Proposition 5, offenders that continue to use drugs during treatment would not be held accountable since judges cannot use additional jail time as a deterrent; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 5 would potentially enable offenders of serious non-drug related crimes—such as domestic violence, child abuse, identity theft and auto theft—to escape criminal prosecution for these offenses if they are linked to an unspecified level of “drug abuse;” and

WHEREAS, Proposition 5 could also undermine the success of drug courts, which craft treatment programs tailored to a defendant's specific addiction history, by restricting available treatment terms and conditions; and

WHEREAS, a state Legislative Analyst report estimated that the total cost of implementing Proposition 5 could exceed \$1 billion; and

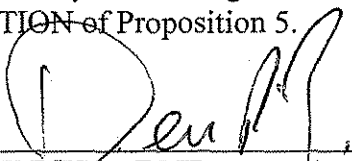
WHEREAS, despite a prediction that potential savings could equal that amount, the Legislative Analyst indicated that the estimate could be wrong by hundreds of millions of dollars, and that costs would increase if offenders commit more crimes while in treatment; and

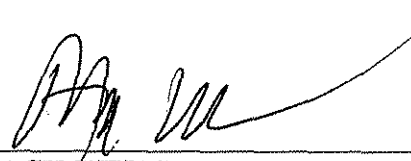
WHEREAS, some estimates predict that Los Angeles County could see an additional 50,000 crimes go unpunished each year, and that the County would incur up to \$84 million in additional costs shifted from the state; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 5 is opposed by law enforcement across the state, including the California District Attorneys Association, California Police Chiefs Association, California State Sheriffs Association, Chief Probation Officers of California, and California Narcotics Officers Association;

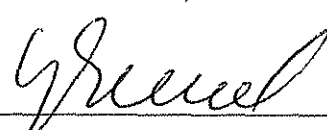
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2007-2008 State Legislative Program OPPOSITION of Proposition 5.

PRESENTED BY:


DENNIS P. ZINE
Councilmember, 3rd District


JACK WEISS
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



08-0002-5145

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