

Dear FCL Supporter,

We invite you to let Gov. Schwarzenegger know of your support for SB 115 by signing the letter below or writing a letter in your own words and **returning it to the Friends Committee on Legislation of California** in the enclosed envelope. We encourage you to collect additional letters and **send them to FCL**, 1225 8th Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814.

(Please remove at perforation.)

June 15, 2009

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

I am writing to ask you to sign SB 115 into law. SB 115 establishes an exemption to the state loyalty oath now required of state employees – an exemption based on religious, moral or ethical beliefs.

SB 115 provides for an alternative statement affirming that the employee will “uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and all other laws of the State of California” and that the employee will faithfully discharge the duties upon which he or she is about to enter.

As a person of conscience, I believe that no person should be denied the opportunity to serve the people of this state based solely on his or her religious beliefs. As you know, freedom of religion has played a crucial role in the history and culture of our nation. I ask you to uphold this long-cherished principle by signing SB 115.

As a Californian, it is also important to me that our state be able to benefit from the talents of those who might otherwise be excluded from employment because of the current loyalty oath. For example, two Quaker professors were recently fired from the state university system because they could not, in good conscience and without mental reservation, sign the oath as it currently stands.

This bill provides a win-win solution for both employees and the state of California. Employees with religious convictions that preclude them from signing the current oath will be able to sign an alternate statement and offer their valuable services to the people of our state. The State of California will be able to insure that its employees affirm that they will uphold the state and federal constitutions and that they will faithfully discharge their duties.

Supporters of this bill include California Church Impact, representing 1.5 million members of Protestant and Orthodox Christian communities of faith; the ACLU; AFSCME, AFL-CIO; the Friends Committee on Legislation of California and many other organizations and individuals across the state.

Again, I urge you to protect our rich heritage of religious freedom by signing SB 115 into law.

Sincerely,

Signature _____ Print Name

Address, City, State, Zip