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Response to Withdrawal of Governor's Pension Initiative

SACRAMENTO, Calif., April 7 /PRNewswire/ -- J.J. Jelincic, President of the California State Employees Association, issued the following statement this morning:

"We are delighted that Gov. Schwarzenegger has announced this morning he is pulling his pension initiative from the ballot. His scheme to switch public employees to a riskier 401(k) pension plan was shortsighted and unnecessary. We are pleased that he finally recognized that the ill-conceived initiative could have taken away death and disability benefits from the families of police and firefighters. We also note that the governor has backed away from his insistence that any pension reform must include switching to a defined contribution plan. CSEA believes that the governor, the Legislature, and representatives of public employees can negotiate a reform plan that helps stabilize taxpayer expenditures while insuring that public employees have a safe and secure retirement plan.

"While the immediate threat is over, we recognize that this initiative by the governor was part of an ongoing national campaign by the right-wing to privatize Social Security and public employee pensions. That's why we must -- and we will -- remain vigilant."

CSEA is California's largest state employee organization, representing more than 140,000 state and university workers, managers, supervisors and retirees.

SOURCE California State Employees Association

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