

**RESOLUTION NO. 85-889**

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL ON DATE OF

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE FAIR RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1986

**WHEREAS**, the present joint and several liability law, also known as the "Deep Pocket Doctrine", has unfairly cost the cities of California millions of dollars in court judgments, settlements, legal costs, skyrocketing insurance premiums and difficulty in obtaining adequate liability insurance coverage; and,

**WHEREAS**, this same doctrine has also cost other governmental bodies, business firms and professionals many millions of dollars; and,

**WHEREAS**, ultimately this cost is unfairly borne by the taxpayers and consumers of California; and,

**WHEREAS**, many cities, other governmental bodies, business firms and professionals are selected as defendants in lawsuits merely because of their perceived assets or insurance and often are found only fractionally at fault but must pay most or all of the judgment because the defendants most at fault cannot pay; and,

**WHEREAS**, the "Fair Responsibility Act of 1986" is an initiative measure that would give the voters of California an opportunity to reform the inequities and injustices of the "Deep Pocket Doctrine" by holding liability lawsuit defendants financially liable in closer proportion to their degree of fault;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and members of the Council of the City of Sacramento, that they endorse the "Fair Responsibility Act of 1986" and urge its support and passage to relieve the financial strain imposed on local government and its taxpayers.

Date: November 19, 1985

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

**APPROVED**  
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

NOV 19 1985

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY CLERK

# TAXPAYERS for FAIR RESPONSIBILITY

RECEIVED  
MAYOR/  
CITY COUNCIL OFFICE  
111 Anza Boulevard, Suite 406 • SERRANO, CALIFORNIA 94010 • (415) 340-0470

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County Supervisors  
Association of California  
League of California  
Cities  
California Chamber  
of Commerce  
California Taxpayers  
Association  
California Manufacturers  
Association  
Association for California  
Tort Reform  
California Medical  
Association  
California Hospital  
Association  
Association of California  
Insurance Companies  
Alliance of  
American Insurers  
(Partial Listing)

October 28, 1985

Dear City Official:

You recently received information from the League of California Cities outlining the effort by a coalition of government, business and health care organizations to change California's unfair "deep pockets" law. This coalition--Taxpayers for Fair Responsibility--includes the County Supervisors Association of California, the League, California Chamber of Commerce, California Taxpayers Association, California Medical Association, California Hospital Association and California Manufacturers Association. The initiative supported by the coalition, the Fair Responsibility Act of 1986, contains virtually the same provisions as SB 75.

John H. Hodgson II,  
Treasurer  
I.D. #850827

Your assistance is critically important to the success of this effort. The support of each council member individually, and the collective endorsement of every city, will help the public to realize that "deep pockets" is a taxpayer issue--and that reform will mean the savings of millions of taxpayer dollars.

The League, by resolution at its annual meeting, has made "deep pockets" reform a top priority. You can help immediately in the following ways:

- 1) Sign and return the enclosed endorsement card.
- 2) Help persuade your full council to adopt the enclosed resolution. We would like to have resolutions from all boards (by December 1). When it is passed, please send a copy to the Campaign office.
- 3) Contact 5 to 10 key community leaders to help with this effort (service club presidents, key business and professional people, etc.).
- 4) Contact your local state legislators--both Assembly and Senate members--and ask them to endorse the initiative.



- 5) Circulate petitions. If you would like to help collect signatures, please contact the Taxpayers for Fair Responsibility Campaign office at (415) 340-0470.

All time spent by city officials on qualifying or advocating this ballot measure must be volunteer time. No city money, staff time, or city resources may be spent to qualify the initiative. City money and resources, including staff time and office equipment, may be spent to provide objective information on ballot measures, but not to advocate. Violation of these prohibitions can result in both civil and criminal penalties.

Working together, we can restore fairness to the law and save our cities millions of much-needed taxpayers' dollars.

Please contact Ethie Weaver, State Field Director, at the Campaign office if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Richard S. Woodward  
Campaign Manager  
Taxpayers for Fair Responsibility

Enclosures