

Why We Oppose Arnold

UNAC/UHCP opposes Governor Schwarzenegger because Governor Schwarzenegger opposes Safe Staffing Ratios in Medical Facilities. Governor Schwarzenegger has done everything in his power to block the enforcement of state legislation concerning nurse-to-patient ratios. The Governor sought to prevent the one-to-five ratios from taking effect in January 2005 by proposing “Emergency Regulations.” When Sacramento Superior Court Judge Hersher signed court orders barring Schwarzenegger from suspending the safe staffing guidelines while a court challenge is under way, the Governor said that he would appeal the injunction as soon as possible. It is clear that improving patient care at our facilities is not one of the Governor’s priorities.

UNAC/UHCP opposes Governor Schwarzenegger because Governor Schwarzenegger opposes Retirement Security. The Governor’s recent retreat on pensions was a huge defeat for his special interest agenda, but the fight for California’s future isn’t over. Schwarzenegger has pledged to continue to push for the privatization of pension funds by re-crafting the initiative measure in order to re-start the signature process for placement on the June 2006 ballot. It is clear that our safe retirement is not one of the Governor’s chief concerns.

UNAC/UHCP opposes Governor Schwarzenegger because Governor Schwarzenegger opposes legislation designed to protect consumers and help working families. After accepting millions of dollars in campaign contributions from special interest groups such as drug companies, auto dealers, and Wall Street bankers, Governor Schwarzenegger:

- Vetoed Patient Safety Lift Teams
- Vetoed language clarifying breaks and hours of pay
- Vetoed legislation that would have cut prescription drug costs
- Vetoed the “Car Buyers Bill of Rights”
- Vetoed an increase in the minimum wage

Governor Schwarzenegger has raised more special interest money than any governor in history. He even sued in court for the right to raise an unlimited amount! It is clear that the Governor’s first loyalty is to the corporate donors who are pulling his strings.

UNAC/UHCP opposes Governor Schwarzenegger because Governor Schwarzenegger opposes Adequate Funding for Education. Governor Schwarzenegger insists that his budget includes a \$2.9-billion funding increase for schools – kindergarten through community college. What the Governor leaves out is that he promised schools \$2 billion more and reneged. In other words, Schwarzenegger borrowed \$2 billion from the education budget and now refuses to pay it back! It is clear that the Governor does not recognize the value of a good education.

In short, UNAC/UHCP opposes Governor Schwarzenegger because Governor Schwarzenegger opposes the rights and interests of the nurses, teachers, firefighters, police, and public employees who make California the great state that it is.



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