



August 12, 2009

To: Members of the California Assembly and Senate

**Re: August 2009 Consumer Priority Bill List**

Dear Lawmaker:

In the hectic final month of the 2009 regular session, hundreds of bills will move swiftly through both chambers of the legislature. A number of these bills – good and bad – are of utmost importance to California’s consumers.

We write to provide focus on the bills that are top consumer coalition priorities for approval and rejection. Decades of lax consumer regulation have taken their toll on our state's economy, with disastrous results for low income consumers, working families and retirees. We call on the legislature to take action to restore public confidence in the marketplace by standing up to special interests. Enact the pro-consumer measures and defeat the anti-consumer bills on the attached list. We stand united in our support or opposition to them.

Please feel free to contact Pedro Morillas (916) 448-4526 or Richard Holober (650) 375-7840 for more information.

Sincerely,

Pedro Morillas  
CALPIRG

Richard Holober  
Consumer Federation of California

Jodi Reid  
California Alliance for Retired Americans

Elisa Odabashian  
Consumers Union

Gary Passmore  
Congress of California Seniors

Betty Perry  
Older Women’s League of California

Linda Williams  
Consumer Action

Beth Givens  
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse

Rosemary Shahan  
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

Enclosure

## August 2009 Priority Consumer Legislation

### **OPPOSE:**

**AB 48 (Portantino)** Reauthorizes Bureau of Private Post Secondary Education, without anti-fraud protection. Grants state approval to vocational education providers that rip-off students.

**AB 1200 (Hayashi)** Weakens auto insurance anti-steering law. Allows insurers to unduly influence policyholders' choice of body shop without disclosing financial arrangements between insurer and shop.

### **SUPPORT:**

**AB 2 (De La Torre)** Restricts health insurers from rescinding coverage after a patient needs treatment, based on unintentional mistakes on an insurance application.

**AB 171 (Jones)** Prohibits dentists' offices from offering high-interest loans to patients under the influence of anesthesia, and from charging lines of credit before services are rendered.

**AB 260 (Lieu)** Prohibits mortgage brokers from making false or misleading statements to borrowers, prohibits steering borrowers to higher cost home loans, restricts use of negative amortization loans, and limits mortgage prepayment penalties.

**AB 764 (Nava)** Prohibits real estate brokers and others from collecting upfront fees for loan modification services until the terms of the loan have been modified. Requires notice to consumer that it is not necessary to pay a fee to a third party to arrange a loan modification.

**AB 943 (Mendoza)** Limits employers from using job applicant's credit reports in hiring process.

**AB 1503 (Lieu)** Limits the amount that emergency room physicians and surgeons can charge an uninsured patient with income below 350% of federal poverty level.

**AB 1512 (Lieu)** Prohibits the sale of infant formula, baby food and over the counter drugs after the "use by" date on product label.

**AB 1521 (Jones)** Prohibits variation in insurer payments to health insurance brokers based on health status, claims experience or occupation of insured.

**SB 20 (Simitian)** Requires security breach notices to describe the nature of the breach and to inform consumer about how to place a freeze on credit reports.

**SB 772 (Leno)** Exempts certain home furnishings used by children age six or younger from fire retardancy standard that has not proven effective in reducing fire deaths but that has exposed children to harmful toxic chemicals.

**SB 797 (Pavley)** Bans toxic bisphenol A (BPA) from baby bottles, sippy cups and containers of food and beverage intended for consumption by children age three or younger.