

SVDP VOP Weekly report for period ending 3/14/10

ACTION ALERT: PAYDAY LENDING

WHAT:

HB 2370, a Strike Everything bill, designed to keep payday lending in Arizona beyond the June 30, 2010 “sunset date”. Sponsor: Russell Pearce, Senate Appropriations Chair.

WHEN AND WHERE:

Tuesday, March 16 at 1:30 p.m. in SHR 109

NEW WRINKLE:

Nearly identical to HB 2161 (withdrawn earlier in the session for lack of support) HB 2370 has an added provision that one and one-half percent of fees collected on loans made by the industry will go to “...organizations that serve low income and moderate individuals”.

POSITION:

VOP continues to oppose the extension of payday lending in Arizona.

TAKE ACTION MONDAY OR TUES. MORNING! Call or e-mail members of the Senate Appropriations Committee and urge a “No” vote HB 2370

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Proposition 100 Campaign (1 cent sales tax increase):

According to the Arizona Guardian the Committee promoting the sales tax increase has raked in about \$200,000 from business and public safety groups despite the opposition of our two U.S. Senators Jon Kyl and John McCain.

Ballot Referendums:

In the Senate for 3rd reading and passage is SCR 1001 (early childhood development; health; repeal), and SCR 1002 (land conservation fund; reversion). First Things First offered to loan the money to the state, but the Legislature wants to sweep it into the general fund. Many of you helped qualify First Things First as an initiative and may want

to oppose the elimination of a program devoted to helping low income children prepare for school.

State Budget:

Montini had a great column on the “courage” of Speaker Adams this morning. Read it if you can.

And finally, and strangely, coming from me, I have become a firm believer in the Society’s restriction against “sign-ons” or joining with other organizations on issues. This came after viewing a YouTube video of last week’s demonstration at the state capitol asking the Governor to veto the anti-immigration bills.

Many folks carried signs and there was a banner used in the demonstration. However, I don’t really think it does any good to call people fascists and racists when you are asking them to do something you want. Folks who get things done are invariably polite and respectful, even when they are totally opposed to the opposition. I think they would be better off remembering the dictum of St. Francis de Sales that you get more flies with honey than with vinegar.

Have a great ST. PATRICK’S DAY. For once there is no VOP meeting on this important day!