NEWS RELEASE
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE KEVIN SHELLEY

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Waiting Period and Parental Notification Prior to Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

SACRAMENTO, CA --- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley announced today that the proponents of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for their measure.

The Attorney General's official title and summary is as follows:

WAITING PERIOD AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION PRIOR TO TERMINATION OF MINOR'S PREGNANCY. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

- Amends California Constitution's right to privacy by prohibiting an abortion on an unemancipated minor until 48 hours after physician notifies minor's parent or legal guardian, except in medical emergency or with parental waiver of notice.
- Permits judicial waiver of notice based on clear and convincing evidence that minor is sufficiently mature and well-informed to decide whether to have an abortion or that parental notification is not in the minor's best interests.
- Authorizes parent or guardian to obtain actual damages, or statutory damages of $10,000 for violation.

The summary of the estimated fiscal impact on state and local governments, as determined by the Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance indicates that the net costs of this measure to Medi-Cal and other programs are unknown, but are probably not significant in the context of the total expenditures for these programs.

The proponents, Kristen Edwards and Rosemarie Avila, must collect 598,105 signatures of registered voters, which is eight percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2002 gubernatorial election, in order to qualify the measure. The 150-day deadline to circulate petitions for this measure is June 20, 2005. The initiative proponents can be reached at 714-573-2201.

For a copy of the complete text, title & summary, and circulation calendar, please contact the Secretary of State's Press Office at 916-653-6575.

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