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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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California Taxpayers' Association Calls on Phone Tax Campaign to Stop Issuing Fundraising Solicitations Designed to Appear Like State Checks

SACRAMENTO – The California Taxpayers' Association today called on the “Yes on the Phone Tax” campaign to stop issuing phony \$200 million checks that claim to come from the State of California’s bank account.

The full-color checks read: “State of California...Pay to the Order of On-Call Emergency Physicians, The Sum, Two Hundred Million Dollars.” The checks even have a phony official signature on the front side, and a phony security statement on the top. Even worse is the fundraising solicitation on the back of the “check” that asks doctors to give \$95 to the campaign.

Cal-Tax President Larry McCarthy said: “Special interest manipulation of the initiative process has hit a new low with the use of this phony check scheme as a fundraising device. The not-so-subtle message this phony check scheme represents is 'fund this initiative, doctor, and you will be financially rewarded.' It's shameful and an insult to both the people of California and the medical profession.

“I ask the phone tax backers to immediately withdraw these phony checks from circulation and stop this crass and indefensible practice of enticing campaign contributions from doctors in exchange for future financial reward funded by hardworking California taxpayers.”

McCarthy continued: “This initiative for the November ballot would cost consumers \$540 million per year in new phone taxes. Further, it does nothing to expand health care or reduce health care costs for consumers. Instead, the real purpose of this misleading initiative is to increase the profits of doctors and hospital corporations.”

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