

## Lazy Legislators

Legislators in Carson City are going to pass a bill that will make their jobs easier at the expense of your rights. As Nevadan's we must band together to stop them! Senate Bill 212, being sponsored by Senator Rhoads, will essentially eliminate the average citizen's ability to petition our state government. As well as, end up costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in unnecessary attorneys' fees.

The initiative petition process as laid out by the Nevada Constitution allows ballot questions to come directly from citizens, which are passed directly by a majority vote from the public. This process keeps "politicking" to a minimum and is considered one of the only remaining ways to pass a law via a citizen's efforts alone. The Initiative Petition process is simply another way for Nevadan's to do what is right for their own state. Our right to vote, our citizen legislature, and the initiative petition process are all sacred rights guaranteed to Nevada citizens. Any roadblocks put in place to impair this system should be quickly discarded. Unfortunately, SB 212 is one such roadblock.

As the law stands today, the Nevada Constitution requires 10% of all Nevada voters sign a petition in order for a question to appear on a ballot. By passing SB 212, our Legislators will give the power to veto an initiative petition to one (1) assembly district even if *all* of the remaining forty-one (41) assembly districts approve it. This means that less than one percent of Nevada's population can override the will of the other ninety-nine percent.

SB 212 will be an obstruction of monumental proportions to the initiative petition process –a process that was put in place as an avenue for the people of Nevada to voice their opinion to their government. The Ninth Circuit Court has struck down all attempts to impair the petition process. If this bill passes, it will only further burden our State with a lawsuit it will surely lose, just like it has many times before. Another loss in the Ninth Circuit Court will cost the state hundreds of thousands of dollars in attorneys' fees and precious time that we do not have.

The Nevada Constitution affords the right of the initiative petition process to its people. It is my wish that in the spirit of our state's rights and in the belief that every Nevadan may bring forth the important issues they feel our government should address, that you join me in opposition of Senate Bill 212.

Sincerely,  
Kermitt Waters