ADVOCACY IN ACTION:
A CASE STUDY ON AB 2873

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Session Agenda

- Introduction
- The Problem
- The Proposed Solution
- The Problem with the Solution
- CALBO Coalition Building
- Activation
- Crossing the Finish Line

Time Line

- December 2015 - Disability Rights CA reaches out to CALBO Access Committee to discuss legislation relating to expanding and enforcing CASp certification.
- February 2016 - AB 2873 is introduced in the Assembly.
- March 2016 - AB 2873 amended to require all building inspectors to be CASp certified by Jan. 1, 2017. Increased fee collected from business licenses, increased penalties for fines related to jurisdiction and required it be used for CASp training.
- March/April 2016 - CALBO conversations with sponsor and author increase. CALBO starts working with other organizations (CBIA, CBPA, the League, CSAC).
- April 2016 - AB 2873 amended and pushes implementation date to January 2018. Clarifies that it applies to building inspectors who perform permit and plan checking.
- May 2016 - AB 2873 amended and pushes implementation date to January 2020 and requires access inspections for renewals in addition to new construction. The fee collected from business licenses is now for building permits.
- June 2016 - AB 2873 passes Assembly and moves to Senate. The fee collected from building permits and increase in business licenses.
- July 2016 - CALBO lobbying continues in Sacramento. daily check-in, meetings with author, sponsor and stakeholders. CALBO is making these to Sacramento.
- August 2016 - AB 2873 amended to move back to business license and allow fee to be collected from building permits if the jurisdiction doesn’t require a business license. Pushes implementation date to 2017 and gives new fees.
- Activates members to contact legislators in support of the new collection (lower rate, extended time to comply).
• December 2015 - Disability Right CA reaches out to CALBO Access Committee to Discuss Legislation relating to increasing fees to better fund CASp testing and certification

• February 2016
  – AB 2873 is introduced as a spot bill
  – CALBO begins tracking the bill

• March 2016 - AB 2873 amended to require ALL building inspectors to be CASp certified by Jan 1, 2017, increased fee collected from business licenses, increased percent of fee retained by jurisdiction and required it be used for CASp training; CALBO takes oppose unless amended position; starts having more conversations with the author and the sponsor—why ALL building inspectors?
Problem: backlog and delay ensuring access requirements are met (DRC)

Solution: All building inspectors must be CASp certified.

1. CASp exam pass rate is 28%
2. Cost prohibitive, even with a fee increase
3. CASp is not necessarily the right measurement
So, would you require a cop to pass the bar?

Time Line

- **March/April 2016**
  - CALBO’s conversations with sponsor and author increase
  - CALBO starts working with other stakeholders (CBIA, CBPA, the League, CSAC)

- **April 2016**
  - AB 2873 amended and pushes implementation date to January 2018; clarifies that it applies to building inspectors who perform permitting and plan checking
  - CALBO Class I Members attend Leadership and Advocacy Day and talk to legislators about AB 2873

- **May 2016**
  - AB 2873 amended and pushes implementation date to January 2020 and requires access inspections for renovations in addition to new construction; moves fee collected from business licenses to building permits but sunsets the fee collection in 2019
  - CALBO and the League start checking in more frequently
Time Line

• **June 2016** - AB 2873 passes Assembly and moves to Senate; DSA opposes fees collected from building permits and wants it moved back to permits
• **July 2016** - Conversations continue with author and stakeholders; CALBO is moving closer to removing opposition; CALBO keeps members engaged and puts members’ feedback at the forefront of all conversations

Time Line

• **August 2016** -
  – AB 2873 amended to move fee to business licenses and allow it to be collected from building permits if the jurisdiction doesn’t require business license; removes existing reference to housing codes; pushes implementation date to 2021 and gives new hires 24 months to comply; amended to extend the fee collection (lower rate) indefinitely
  – Coalition changes as CBIA and CBPA remove opposition and CAPE (labor) joins in, daily check-ins
  – CALBO offers one final set of amends, specifying a low percentage of building inspectors (employed or retained) be CASp certified, but sponsor/author declines
  – CALBO moves to oppose, grassroots activated, bill moves to Senate floor and dies
Advocacy in Action

- CALBO Called Members to Action
- Members respond with hundreds of letters
- CALBO staff hand delivered letters
- CALBO staff faxed letters
- CALBO staff in Capitol meeting with legislators

Quick Recap

AB 2873 CASp (Thurmond, D-15)

- DRC reaches out to CALBO about a bill idea to increase the number of CASps in CA, but conversations are limited
- Bill introduced and subsequently amended substantially
- CALBO’s Access Committee, Legislative Committee and Board of Directors weigh in on position
- CALBO staff “on the ground” building coalitions, meeting with legislators and committee staff
- Industry offers amendments (“poison pill”) and they are accepted but they don’t go far enough for CALBO
- CALBO determines a set of amendments we can live with but sponsor declines
- CALBO calls members to action and they respond
- Laser focus on getting “no” votes since the bill required 2/3 to pass
- Pressure not lifted until Adjournment Sine Die, Bill Fails
Does a bill every really die?

• NO!
• The vehicle (actual bill number) can die—fails committee, fails floor, Governor veto
• But a bill starts with an idea and ideas sometimes change, but often DO NOT
• AB 1379 (Thurmond) Introduced in 2017. CALBO and CBIA immediately began conversations with the author and sponsor in the fall. They are planning to only address the fee, increasing the amount collected to ensure jurisdictions have ample funding to train for CASp certification
QUESTIONS?