



California Senate Republican Caucus

Janet Nguyen
Caucus Chair

Brian W. Jones, Senate Minority Leader

Brian Dahle
Shannon Grove
Roger W. Niello
Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
Kelly Seyarto
Scott Wilk

June 1, 2023

Senator Toni Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Madam Pro Tem:

We, the members of the California Senate Republican Caucus, write to express profound concerns regarding an honoree for an upcoming Floor Ceremony on Senate Resolution 33, scheduled for June 5, 2023. While the resolution is supportable, the ceremony includes an invitation to a leader of the "Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence," which is well known for their public denigration of the Catholic faith. We respectfully request the withdrawal of this invitation, as it sends a troubling message to Californians of all faiths.

There are an estimated 10 million California residents who identify as Catholic, [according to the Pew Research Center](#). Were this group to denigrate any other faith, we are certain the Senate would not extend this invitation. Hate speech directed towards individuals practicing any faith should not be tolerated.

While the California State Senate serves as a symbol for many values, it should not be associated with disrespect or hatred towards those with differing religious ideologies. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, through their public disparagement of the Catholic Faith, have displayed a disregard for the principles of tolerance and understanding that should guide our society. Honoring them in the Senate Chambers would be inappropriate and contrary to the values we hold dear.

The California Senate Republican Caucus stands firmly against any form of hate, including religious hate. We formally request you withdraw Sister Roma's invitation to the Senate Floor.

Thank you to your attention to this pressing matter.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Brian W. Jones in blue ink.

Brian W. Jones
Senate Minority Leader
40th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Shannon Grove in blue ink.

Shannon Grove
Vice Chair, Senate Rules Committee
12th Senate District



Brian Dahle
1st Senate District



Roger Niello
6th Senate District



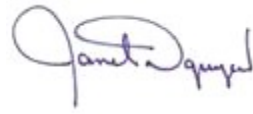
Scott Wilk
21st Senate District



Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
23rd Senate District



Kelly Seyarto
32nd Senate District



Janet Ngyuen
36th Senate District