

My name is Larry Yamasaki. I worked for the Santa Clara County Department of Agriculture for 31 years as an Agricultural Inspector. I enforced the California Code of Regulations Title 3, on issues relating to pesticide use and plant quarantine. Pesticide use included proper application, and worker safety. Plant quarantine included prevention of insect and disease.

I have a secure retirement, and would like to see all Californians enjoy the same.

I have health care benefits for myself, but am concerned that health care issues are currently impacting many Californians. I am active with SEIU 521 in lobbying for health care reform this year. Although all proposals are still on the table, AB 8 appears to be the most promising. In its amended form, it should address many of our concerns, including affordability through adequate employer, employee and public participation. It should address cost containment through public oversight, including an Insurance Commissioner. Also, AB 8 should address usability through lower deductibles, and eliminate pre-existing conditions as a means to disqualify people. Adequate drug coverage should also be addressed.

I urge you to support AB 8 in its amended form. It will help win the battle for better pensions and health care. Thank you.