

April 12, 2006 CHANGES ITALICIZED!!!

DON'T FORGET our next hearing date is next **TUESDAY**, *April 25th* at 1:30pm in a room to be determined. If you can, please plan to attend this hearing. Senator Torlakson says it is very important that as many supporters as can be there. Don't forget to wear your **RED** and **Matt** Badges.

Well the battle is on. We knew there was going to be opposition for Matt's Law and now it has reared its ugly head. The Kern County Chapter of E Clampus, a fraternal organization kind of like the Elks, Mouse and Lions, have orchestrated a letter writing campaign much like ours but against Matt's Law saying, "kill this bill" and asking committee members to, *stop the insanity in its tracks*. They are doing this because they have initiation rituals they want to protect and are afraid that Matt's Law will affect them. If they are seriously harming someone - or God forbid accidentally killing someone - then they should definitely be held accountable for what they are doing. Because they are adults doing these acts to other (consenting) adults does not make it right, it does not make it okay.

Hazing rituals have gone too far, they have gotten out of hand and people are suffering and in some cases dying, and have been for too many years because of them. How can we say it is okay for some and that some people's lives don't matter just because it is happening to them in an adult fraternal organization? These adults have children and they are teaching their children that this behavior is acceptable. If they are not going to teach their children that it is wrong, then the state of California will have to.

The Kern County Chapter of E Clampus speaks proudly in the opening paragraph of their Introduction to the Clampers under the History of ECV on their website saying they were "devoted so completely to drinking and carousing that none of the Clampers was ever in any condition (I think they meant condition which they weren't in any to write either) to keep minutes, let alone remember what had happened the next day!" If they can't even remember what happened the next day then how do they know what heinous acts they may have perpetrated on those they were initiating the night before. This statement alone shows why they do not want Matt's Law passed. Not to mention the closing statement of their Introduction "Hopefully, you will survive the rigors of the initiation, and become a Member of the Peter LeBeck Chapter #1866 of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus."

I am by no means telling people not to drink I am just asking them to be responsible and not to torture and degrade people in the process; there is a big difference.

Now if I would have just happened upon that website I probably would have thought it was a joke and everything was fun and games but for the fact that they are opposing Matt's Law so vigorously that they have a link on their site Matt's Law Protest leads me to believe that they definitely have a problem there and are very aware of it. Why else would they care?

This is the mentality we are up against, people can be thoughtless and selfish always putting themselves above all else and finding entertainment through the degradation of others, which is terribly sad. These barbaric ideals have got to stop if we ever want our children to be safe.

We need to help them understand that what they are doing to people is wrong and no good comes from it. And if we can't reach them we need to at least reach those around them so that they don't become their victims. Stop the insanity is right, stop the insane way some people derive pleasure.

Please write your letters to Senator Dunn the Chair of the Judiciary Committee and if possible copy them to the rest of the Committee Members, Matt's Law must pass this committee to continue on. Do it soon the hearing is less than *two weeks* away.

Thank you to everyone for all your wonderful support.

"Hug your children and tell them you love them everyday."

**Love,
Debbie, MM**