

Dear Common Cause Member:

The citizens' battle for open government in the State of Washington is not over. If we were hopeful that the strong support given Initiative 276 in the November '72 election would serve as a sufficient mandate to encourage adequate implementation of the measure, we are finding that this is not true. There has been considerable resistance from some of those most directly affected by the initiative; some provisions of the initiative are being challenged in the courts on constitutional grounds.

In one suit brought by public officials, Marianne Norton was named as a defendant representing the citizens of the state. The Washington Division of AAUW agreed to provide financial support of \$500. However, now there is bad news. A bill of over \$7,000 in lawyer fees has already been incurred, as efforts have been made by the instigators of the suit to sever Marianne from the case. We understand there is little hope that the League of Women Voters will be allowed to intervene in the case, and AAUW cannot pay the present bill, much less allow the lawyers to continue their work and thereby add to the debt.

How interested are you in continuing the fight to give Initiative 276 a chance by seeing that an individual citizen remains a defendant in this court suit? Though we are sure that the state public officials, i.e., the Attorney General and the several County Prosecutors will do their best as defendants, they do after all bring a somewhat different perspective to the case.
