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January 16, 2011

Honorable Anthony Portantino  
State Capitol  
Room 2003  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1378 (Portantino) Expanding CA Whistleblower Protection Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Portantino,

On behalf of California Common Cause and our 400,000 national members, please accept this letter of support for Assembly Bill 1378, a bill to expand the protections and processes of California's Whistleblower Protection Act to employees of the Legislature.

Common Cause has been a longtime supporter of protections for those who do the right thing by reporting waste, fraud, and abuses. We have worked across the country in support of expanding whistleblower protections to all public employees, because they too should play a part in holding our government accountable.

Assembly Bill 1378 would finally close the loophole that has left legislative employees without the same whistleblower protections as their public service counterparts. The Legislature employs passionate individuals who serve with integrity; these employees deserve better than an environment that demands loyalty through fear of reprisal. If a public servant witnesses or has knowledge of illegal or abusive activities, they should be empowered to come forward with their reports, not silenced.

For these reasons we strongly support AB 1378 and urge the Legislature to approve it. Please contact me at (916) 520-4070 or [pung@commoncause.org](mailto:pung@commoncause.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Phillip Ung  
Policy Advocate