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April 23, 2015

The Honorable Mike Gatto
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 10 –Behested Payments and Economic Interest Disclosures - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gatto,

On behalf of California Common Cause and our members, I am writing with a letter of support for Assembly Bill 10, which would make several significant changes to the Political Reform Act.

Transparency and disclosure are essential to a healthy democracy. Voters need access to accurate information about candidates and elected officials financial interests, investments and sources of income. Greater transparency and disclosure help prevent the appearance of corruption and restore the public trust.

Assembly Bill 10 will facilitate greater transparency by requiring more detailed disclosure of public official's financial interests. It also expands behested payment disclosure requirements to include candidates and former elected officials for one year after leaving elective office. By expanding the universe of individuals who must report any payment that is made at the behest of that person for legislative, governmental or charitable purposes, voters will have better information that will allow them to make more informed decisions.

This bill will also change the thresholds at which a public official's financial interest can potentially create a conflict of interest. In its current form, AB 10 updates these thresholds to account for inflation since they were originally set in 1974. If these thresholds are changed prior to passage, we would like to work with the author to ensure the original intent of the bill remains intact.

California Common Cause supports AB 10 and we look forward to working with your office. We hope that you will look to our organization if you need any further assistance.

Please contact me at lpedersen@commoncause.org or (213) 623-1216 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Leila Pedersen
State Program Manager