

April 30, 2015

The Honorable Melissa Melendez  
State Capitol, Room 4009  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**RE: Assembly Bill 289 provides protections for whistleblowers within the California Legislature - SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Melendez,

On behalf of California Common Cause and our members, I am writing with a letter of support for Assembly Bill 289, which would increase accountability and transparency in politics by granting employees of the California legislature immunities and protections as whistleblowers.

In order to maintain the public's trust and conduct governance with integrity, the Legislature must operate under an atmosphere of transparency and accountability. Employees of the Legislature have the potential to play a critical role in creating this environment by reporting unscrupulous behavior, but are discouraged from coming forward by the current lack of legal protections. AB 289 goes a long way towards restoring transparency in government by shielding whistleblowers from retaliation.

For all of these reasons, California Common Cause strongly supports AB 289, 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](mailto:LPedersen@commoncause.org) or (213) 623-1216 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Leila Pedersen  
State Program Manager