



June 3, 2014

The Hon. Mike Turzai  
PA House of Representatives  
110 Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Rep. Turzai:

As we are now nearly three-quarters of the way through the current legislative session, Common Cause/PA wanted to alert you to four important government reform bills that are languishing in committee after having passed their originating chambers by unanimous votes. Before you leave for your summer recess, we strongly urge you to pass these bills and send them to the Governor for his signature.

#### GOVERNMENT REFORM "TO DO LIST" FOR JUNE 2014

##### **SB-37: Online Voter Registration (Smucker)**

This bill passed the Senate on April 17, 2013, by unanimous vote and has been treading water in the House State Government Committee since. *This bill is a four-way winner*, with no down sides. SB-37:

- Reduces state and county costs for processing voter registrations;
- Strengthens the security of the registration data;
- Makes the registration process more efficient, while ensuring greater poll book accuracy;
- Expands registration options for voters, allowing them to register to vote from their home or office computers 24 hours a day, and up until seconds before the registration deadline.

States all across the country are racing to implement online registration for the above reasons, and those who already have implemented it encourage their sister states to follow suit.

##### **SB-120: Electronic Filing of Campaign Expense Reports for State Level Candidates (Pileggi)**

This bill passed the Senate unanimously on April 17, 2013, and is mired in the House State Government Committee. This bill also saves the Department of State time and money, while making the campaign finance data more accurate and available in a timelier manner.

Secondarily it requires committees raising or spending more than \$10,000 to file the complete set of campaign finance reports. SB-120 is another long-overdue common sense piece of legislation.

**HBs-118 and 185: Whistleblower Protection (Ellis and Gibbons respectively)**

These two bills passed the House by unanimous votes on February 5, 2013, and have been stuck in the Senate Labor and Industry committee since.

HB-118 extends protection of the whistleblower law to employees of government contractors. HB-185 extends whistleblower protection to employees of the General Assembly.

No employee who acts in good faith to report abuse of public funds due to fraud, abuse or profiteering by a government contractor should fear losing his or her job. Similarly, no employee of the General Assembly who reports illicit behavior should fear for his or her job. The most recent round of scandals dictates that immediate enactment of these measures is in order.

This truly is the low hanging fruit in a large orchard of overdue government reforms. Please urge your leaders to get this legislation on the books before summer recess so that you can tell your constituents that this legislature is working to restore integrity to Pennsylvania's state and local governments.

Let's get these fundamental reforms done for the people of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Barry L. Kauffman  
Executive Director