

From: Patel, Swati
To: Pitts, Ted <TedPitts@gov.sc.gov>
Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 12/11/2013 9:32:32 AM
Subject: FW: Next Steps for Ethics Reform efforts

FYI

From: Anne Hutto [mailto:AnneH@sccl.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 5:05 PM
To: Patel, Swati; Lynn Teague
Cc: Dana Beach; Arnold, Teresa; Merrill McGregor
Subject: RE: Next Steps for Ethics Reform efforts

Swati,
Lynn and I spoke at length this morning and have decided not to go forward with the pledge at this time for a number of reasons. We will continue to push hard for ethics reform but, at this point, without a solid contingent of organizations united behind a pledge, we do not think that the pledge will be successful, or useful. As a practical matter, with the holidays nearly upon us and session starting soon after that, we do not really have the time to effectively pursue a pledge.

Knowing that, as with so many other issues in Columbia, negotiations will continue, not boxing legislators into absolutes may be helpful in the end.

We look forward to continuing to work with your office, however, and will continue to push on legislators to do the right thing on ethics reform. Anne

Anne Peterson Hutto, Esq.

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Prosperous Lowcountry, Flourishing Planet, at cclfuture.org/presentations.

From: Patel, Swati [mailto:SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 09, 2013 4:32 PM
To: Lynn Teague
Cc: Anne Hutto; Dana Beach; Arnold, Teresa; Merrill McGregor
Subject: RE: Next Steps for Ethics Reform efforts

Lynn,
We understand this concern and would not need to be involved. However, if you can let us know if you will be

pursuing it and the general direction of the pledge (for my understanding), I would really appreciate it.

I am pleased that you will continue the push for ethics reform in whatever ways you choose.

Thanks,
Swati

Swati S. Patel
Chief Legal Counsel
Office of the Governor.South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201
DD 803.734.5095

From: Lynn Teague [mailto:teague_l@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, December 09, 2013 3:52 PM
To: Patel, Swati
Cc: Anne Hutto; Dana Beach; Arnold, Teresa; Merrill McGregor
Subject: Re: Next Steps for Ethics Reform efforts

Swati,

It is my understanding that AARP doesn't wish to be involved in the pledge, although they will continue to support ethics reform in other ways, including a press conference that our groups are planning.

The LWV and CCL share a concern about not getting involved in the rapid evolution of the race for governor, although we think the basic idea of a pledge is a good one. We realize that at this point virtually everything is drawn into the vortex of the 2014 elections, but to preserve what distance we can, a pledge request would have to come from us, without public involvement from the Governor's Office before or after we send it out. Is that consistent with what you thinking of?

Lynn

Lynn Teague
VP for Issues and Action, LWVSC
teague_l@bellsouth.net
803.556.9802

On Dec 9, 2013, at 2:15 PM, "Patel, Swati" <SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

All,

Thanks for the feedback. Let me know the status of the pledge idea and whether you would like my assistance. I know Teresa has some issues with focusing on the Senate's procedural votes and, if you agreed, we would be satisfied with a general pledge to vote for the bill with the key provisions in it.

After we hear back from Lynn, I can help prepare a draft if you like or can review something that you all prepare.

Swati

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From: Anne Hutto [mailto:AnneH@[sccl.org](mailto:AnneH@sccl.org)]
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2013 3:25 PM
To: Dana Beach
Cc: Arnold, Teresa; Patel, Swati; Lynn Teague; Merrill McGregor
Subject: Re: Next Steps for Ethics Reform efforts

All -

I think the pledge is a good idea, so long as we leave room for the inevitable maneuvering. There is a danger to locking people into a position but I like the idea. Anne

Anne Peterson Hutto
anne@Peterson-Hutto.com
Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2013, at 3:12 PM, "Dana Beach" <DanaBeach@sccl.org> wrote:

Swati,

It sounds like a good idea to me, but I'll defer to Merrill and Anne. We'll get back to you on Monday.

Dana

Dana Beach

Executive Director

Coastal Conservation League
328 East Bay St., Charleston, SC 29401
Direct: 843.723.7016 | Fax: 843.723.8308

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From: <Arnold>, Teresa <TArnold@aarp.org>
Date: Friday, December 6, 2013 2:07 PM
To: "Patel, Swati" <SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov>, Lynn Teague <teague_l@bellsouth.net>
Cc: Dana Beach <DanaBeach@sccl.org>
Subject: RE: Next Steps for Ethics Reform efforts

Swati, I am hesitant about signing on to a pledge such as this. The Senate is pretty happy with their rules

and procedures and I do not, for one, want to disturb that happiness! Please forgive, and we will certainly continue to work with both Leagues and others to pass a strong ethics reform bill.

Teresa Arnold | **AARP South Carolina** | **State Director**
1201 Main Street | Suite 1720 | Columbia, SC 29201
Office: 803-765-7374 | Cell: 803-873-2032

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From: Patel, Swati [<mailto:SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 3:34 PM
To: Lynn Teague
Cc: Arnold, Teresa; DanaBeach@scccl.org
Subject: RE: Next Steps for Ethics Reform efforts

Lynn,

Thanks for considering the proposal and I look forward to hearing from you. If we can get a "Coalition" of all of you to prepare and push the pledge then I think that would go a long way.

I am happy to provide technical assistance or anything else you need.

Swati

From: Lynn Teague [mailto:teague_l@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 3:20 PM
To: Patel, Swati
Cc: Arnold, Teresa; DanaBeach@scccl.org
Subject: Re: Next Steps for Ethics Reform efforts
Importance: High

Dear Swati,

I'm glad to hear the state tour went well!

This pledge sounds like an interesting and potentially useful plan. We are already committed to supporting the working group amendment and it has little chance of passage without the ability to invoke cloture. Adjourning debate would be the kiss of death. JoAnne and I need a few days to think this through and run this by a few other people before we can commit the League to either the more specific or more general option, but I can get back to you in a few days with our response.

Thanks to you, and to the Governor, for your efforts --

Lynn

Lynn Teague
VP for Issues and Action, LWVSC
teague_l@bellsouth.net
803.556.9802

On Dec 3, 2013, at 1:40 PM, "Patel, Swati" <SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

Dear All:

We are winding down the Ethics Reform State Tour this week with events in Rock Hill today and Myrtle Beach tomorrow. Our office very much appreciates your participation and continued support.

To continue the push for Ethics Reform, we would like to present a proposal for your consideration. At the Charleston Ethics Reform Event, Sen. Paul Thurmond challenged his fellow Senators to pass ethics reform quickly. He publicly stated that he would pledge his support to Governor Haley and ask his colleagues to vote for cloture (because there are as many as 100 amendments on the desk) and vote against adjourning debate (because amendments can receive up to 20 minutes of debate making for a very long night). Of course, we fully support Sen. Thurmond's challenge and would like to ask you if your coalition would be willing to develop a "pledge" that would have key points (including voting for cloture and against adjourning debate) to be sent to all Senators to encourage them to sign before session. The pledge could even be more simple and ask Senators and House members to sign a pledge to vote for a strong ethics reform bill - to include key proposals in H.3945 – before the end of this legislative session.

This is an idea that we are presenting to you for your consideration. We would like to continue to build the momentum up to the beginning of session and believe your involvement is most helpful for this type of pledge and reaching as many people as possible. Please let me know as soon as you can if you are interested this idea. I am happy to talk about it as well anytime. My cell is 803-665-0259.

Hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving!

Thanks,
Swati

“We are going to have an ethics all-nighter.” – Sen. Paul Thurmond (Post and Courier)

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