

From: Bedsole, Coretta D <cbedsole@aarp.org>

To: Patel, SwatiSwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov

CC: Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov

Date: 1/30/2016 1:47:37 PM

Subject: FW: ARP SC In the Loop -- ACTION NEEDED ON ETHICS REFORM

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Swati and Katherine,

FYI - meant to send this to you yesterday. We sent this to about 150 of our AARP SC "grasstops" volunteers.

Coretta

Coretta Bedsole | AARP South Carolina | Associate State Director

Advocacy

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If you don't think Real Possibilities when you think AARP, then you don't know 'aarp'.

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From: Bedsole, Coretta D

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 11:21 AM

To: Martin, Lynn (LMartin@aarp.org)

Subject: ARP SC In the Loop -- ACTION NEEDED ON ETHICS REFORM

Lynn,

Please share with the usual list.

Thanks,

Coretta

[<https://secure2.convio.net/aarp2/images/content/pagebuilder/aarp-topleft-outlook.png>]

[AARP Advocacy Alert]

[In the Loop]

January 29, 2016

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You can also read more about our work on our website at [www.aarp.org/SC](http://www.aarp.org/SC) and please follow us on facebook

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and twitter

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[<http://aarp2.convio.net/images/content/pagebuilder/12022.gif>]

#### SPECIAL EDITION – ACTION NEEDED ON ETHICS REFORM BILL

On Tuesday, February 2nd the Senate Judiciary Committee will debate House Bill 3184, a House passed ethics bill. It is anticipated that during the debate an amendment will be offered to require an independent investigation for ethics violations and a requirement that all income be disclosed. AARP SC supports both of these provisions.

Please call your member of the Senate Judiciary Committee to ask him/her to vote YES on the

amendment and to vote YES to move the bill to the Senate floor.

#### Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Contact information can be found at this link -- <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?chamber=S>

Martin, Larry A., Chairman<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=1172727132>>  
Rankin, Luke A.<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=1511363455>>  
Hutto, Brad<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0912499891>>  
Malloy, Gerald<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=1131533956>>  
Campsen, George E. "Chip", III<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0302272691>>  
Massey, A. Shane<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=1185227131>>  
Bright, Lee<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0193181795>>  
Coleman, Creighton B.<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0379545409>>  
Gregory, Chauncey K.<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0711363551>>  
Allen, Karl B.<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0015340908>>  
Bennett, Sean<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0141193165>>  
Corbin, Thomas D. "Tom"<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0402272679>>  
Hembree, Greg<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0819318084>>  
Johnson, Kevin L.<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0947727159>>  
McElveen, J. Thomas, III<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=1234090761>>  
Shealy, Katrina Frye<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=1656817983>>  
Thurmond, Paul<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=1824431600>>  
Turner, Ross<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=1847727051>>  
Young, Tom, Jr.<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=1996590730>>  
Kimpson, Marlon E.<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0994318063>>  
Sabb, Ronnie A.<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=1617045261>>  
Matthews, Margie Bright<<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/member.php?code=0194318159>>

#### AARP South Carolina Supports Good Government and Ethics Reform

##### Need for Ethics Reform:

- Weak ethics laws weaken the power of the vote. Good government relies on the ability of elected officials to be responsive to the electorate, not financial donations.
- At present complaints against senators and representatives are handled by committees made up of fellow legislators who can dismiss complaints in secret without any other input.
- The AARP Policy Book states that "Government at all levels should establish and adequately fund independent nonpartisan commissions to create and enforce ethics and lobbying regulations." Also, "Public accountability is unattainable unless elected officials and government appointees are committed to implementing and enforcing evenhandedly the laws and regulations for which they are responsible."
- Why not provide a system on which the public can rely? Why are some legislators so reluctant to put initial investigation and assessment of complaints into the hands of an independent body assisted by professional investigators, while they retain final decision-making authority? Why not protect both the

public and public officials with this sound approach to ethics enforcement?

AARP South Carolina Supports Legislation That Would:

- Expand current income disclosure requirements for elected officials thus resulting in greater transparency.
- Restructuring of the State Ethics Commission to ensure it is more independent in its processes.
- Expansion the powers of the State Ethics Commission so that thorough and appropriate investigations can be conducted.
- Regulates independent expenditures so that voters know what groups have the potential to impact the outcome of an election. Independent expenditures represent spending by individuals, groups, political committees, corporations or unions expressly advocating the election or defeat of clearly identified candidates. Independent committees do not coordinate actively with a candidate or party.

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