

8/3/2016

Sheila Birnbaum
Chair
NYS Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation
64 Beaver Street, Box 454
New York, NY 10004

Dear Ms. Birnbaum,

I urge you and members of the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation to deny taxpayer funded raises to members of the State Legislature. The simple truth is, our State Legislature has been ridiculed here and throughout the nation for corruption and egregious ethical lapses. We have seen multiple elected officials, including the leaders of both the State Assembly and the State Senate, arrested and convicted of felony corruption and abuse of power charges. Rewarding the state legislators, including Senator Carl Marcellino, who have worked to block all meaningful ethics reforms would set a disastrous precedent, and reinforce to the voters that their voices don't matter in Albany.

New York taxpayers have repeatedly called for meaningful ethics reforms and real anti-corruption legislation, only to have their elected representatives ignore those demands. Senators like Carl Marcellino have blocked efforts to reform Albany, even going as far as working to keep Dean Skelos in power. Senator Marcellino's callous disregard for the will of the people should not be rewarded with a pay raise.

It is simply unacceptable that legislators like Carl Marcellino, who has fought ethics reforms for over twenty years in the State Senate, are trying to trick the voters and provide themselves a pay raise. Long Islanders are tired of the corruption in Albany, and they are frustrated by the complete lack of consideration offered by their elected representatives like Senator Marcellino. That is why I ask you and your colleagues on the Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation to deny these state legislators a pay raise until they have truly earned one.

Sincerely,

Jim Gaughran

CC:
Hon. Barry A. Cozier (Ret.)
Roman B. Hedges
Mitra Hormozi
Gary Johnson
Hon. James J. Lack (Ret.)
Fran Reiter