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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

April 30, 2018

The Honorable Mike Turzai, Speaker
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Room 139 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Speaker Turzai:

I write to express my deep disappointment with the comments and behavior of House Chairman Daryl Metcalfe and to seek your help in rectifying the persistent dysfunction he is causing in our legislative process. To that end, I request that you exercise your discretion as Speaker and do not refer any more bills sponsored by Democrats to the State Government Committee for the remainder of the 2018 session.

In my view Mr. Metcalfe has proven himself unfit to oversee a standing committee in the House of Representatives. At a town meeting on April 12, Mr. Metcalfe said "I don't move anything substantive that's Democrat legislation. As I said, I'm a Republican." On April 20, Mr. Metcalfe acknowledged on Facebook that "I block all substantive Democrat legislation sent to my committee."

This blatant discrimination is something we've observed ever since Mr. Metcalfe was given the chairmanship of the State Government Committee in 2011. Now that he freely admits what was always plain to see, I believe you, as Speaker of the House, should act to restore fairness for all House members, Democrats and Republicans alike. Mr. Metcalfe's perversion of the legislative process must not be allowed to continue and you, Mr. Speaker, have the ability to fix it.

Following are bills with Democratic sponsors that you sent to the State Government Committee during this session. True to his boast, Mr. Metcalfe hasn't brought one of them up for a vote:

HB 68 (Burns)
HB 75 (Snyder)
HB 101 (Bizzarro – same-day voter registration)
HB 189 (Rabb)
HB 193 (Gainey)
HB 222 (Briggs)
HB 336 (D.Costa)
HB 427 (Pashinski)
HB 493 (Schlossberg)

HB 499 (T.Davis)
HB 563 (Neilson – independent redistricting commission)
HB 568 (T.Davis – gift ban for public officers)
HB 569 (T.Davis)
HB 570 (T.Davis)
HB 611 (Cruz)
HB 620 (Cruz)
HB 621 (Cruz)
HB 722 (Samuelson – independent redistricting commission)
HB 733 (Longietti)
HB 736 (Longietti)
HB 793 (T.Davis)
HB 869 (Bizzarro)
HB 924 (Daley)
HB 945 (DeLuca)
HB 946 (DeLuca)
HB 947 (DeLuca)
HB 948 (DeLuca)
HB 949 (DeLuca)
HB 950 (DeLuca)
HB 951 (DeLuca)
HB 1016 (Caltagirone)
HB 1093 (McClinton)
HB 1114 (Sims)
HB 1117 (Sims)
HB 1138 (Goodman)
HB 1145 (Briggs)
HB 1167 (Dawkins)
HB 1168 (Dawkins)
HB 1173 (Caltagirone)
HB 1208 (Solomon)
HB 1229 (Hanna)
HB 1241 (Dawkins)
HB 1253 (Caltagirone)
HB 1258 (Freeman)
HB 1262 (Harkins)
HB 1272 (Goodman)
HB 1303 (Matzie)
HB 1304 (Matzie)
HB 1332 (Dermody – comprehensive campaign finance reform)
HB 1410 (Frankel – LGBT non-discrimination)
HB 1417 (Pashinski)
HB 1433 (Caltagirone)
HB 1439 (Caltagirone)
HB 1454 (Rabb)
HB 1465 (Rabb)
HB 1546 (Matzie)
HB 1572 (Rabb)
HB 1604 (Rabb)

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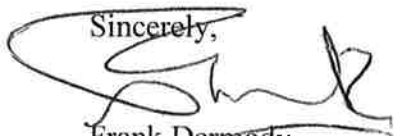
HB 1627 (Freeman)
HB 1655 (Wheatley)
HB 1669 (DeLuca)
HB 1703 (Daley)
HB 1726 (Conklin)
HB 1758 (Rabb)
HB 1767 (Youngblood)
HB 1783 (Solomon)
HB 2020 (Conklin – congressional redistricting commission)
HB 2053 (Wheatley)
HB 2100 (T.Davis – gift ban for members of General Assembly)
HB 2114 (Wheatley)
HB 2285 (Snyder)

Resolutions with substantive content:

HR 108 (Cruz)
HR 154 (Kinsey)
HR 265 (Wheatley)
HR 404 (Cruz)
HR 440 (Dermody)
HR 491 (Cruz)
HR 538 (Vazquez)
HR 672 (J.Harris)
HR 772 (Frankel)

Earlier today, these measures were re-introduced with the full consent and support of the bills' original prime sponsors and each received a new bill number. The new bill numbers are H.B. 2331 through H.B. 2412, while the new resolutions are H.R. 885 through H.R. 893. It now falls to you, as Speaker of the House, to refer these bills to a committee. By re-introducing the legislation, it is our hope, and we are respectfully requesting, that you will demonstrate that you do not condone Mr. Metcalfe's oppressive behavior and that you will refer these bills to other committees with rational and fair chairpersons so that the bills may at least have a chance at consideration.

To be clear, all we seek is that you use your authority and discretion as Speaker and give each bill a chance before a different committee with a different chairman.

Sincerely,

Frank Dermody
33rd Legislative District
Democratic Leader