



July 18, 2018

VIA EMAIL

Chair Germond and Commissioners
Fair Political Practices Commission
1102 Q Street, Suite 3000
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Chair Germond and Commissioners:

The undersigned would like to ask the Commission to delay taking a position on AB 84 (Mullin), the bill to allow creation of four new "Legislative Caucus Committees," each directed by their respective caucus leaders, with the ability to accept contributions at the levels of political party committees. This increases the contribution limits on committees that caucus leaders direct from \$4,400 to \$36,500 (a more than eight-fold increase) for the purposes of making contributions to state candidates — and allows them to accept unlimited contributions to direct for independent expenditures for and against candidates. There are also new reporting requirements for political parties.

AB 84 was amended with entirely new language on July 5. Therefore, our organizations and likely other stakeholders who may wish to weigh in with the Commission have not had an opportunity to either analyze the bill or take a position. As noted in your staff analysis, the proposed changes in AB 84 regarding legislative caucus committees will affect the Political Reform Act's overall contribution limit system, and there are open questions as to whether the changes further or violate the purposes of the Political Reform Act.

Because it could have a dramatic impact on the way that contributions are raised by legislative leaders and political parties, we ask you to delay taking a position until your August hearing. This will allow the public to fully analyze the bill and weigh in with official comments.

Given the important concerns as to whether AB 84 furthers the purposes of the Political Reform Act, we recommend that the Commission request staff to analyze the issues for the public's benefit and the Commission's consideration.

Thank you.

FROM: California Common Cause
California Clean Money Campaign
California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG)
California Voices for Progress
League of Women Voters of California