



Senate of Pennsylvania

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Edwin B. Erickson and Senator John T. Yudichak

DATE: January 24, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship Memo

In the near future, we intend to introduce legislation to create the Pennsylvania Public Integrity Commission.

The Pennsylvania Public Integrity Commission's mission would be to:

- uncover and investigate public corruption at all levels and in all branches of government within the Commonwealth;
- refer investigations to appropriate law enforcement officials for prosecution;
- provide a law enforcement and educational role with respect to corruption in Pennsylvania; - work cooperatively with the Attorney General and other law enforcement entities; and
- issue reports on its work, the status of corruption investigations and recommendations for reform.

The Public Integrity Commission would also have subpoena power and the authority to seek immunity orders to obtain testimony necessary in public corruption investigations.

This ensures it has maximum ability to carry out investigations. In addition to the expanded authority and law enforcement status, the Public Integrity Commission would absorb the existing functions and duties of the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission related to statements of financial interest and conflicts of interest.

It is the hope that this new, empowered agency would take Pennsylvania out from under the dark cloud of suspicion hovering over many of our governmental institutions and into the light of good, ethical government practices. Self-policing has not worked. It is time to form an independent state agency to root out and prevent public corruption.

If you have any questions about this legislation, please call Senator Erickson's office at 787-1350 or Senator Yudichak's office at 787-7105.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please call Senator Yudichak's office at 787-7105 .