

# **MEMORANDUM**

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Babette Josephs

DATE: January 31, 2012

SUBJECT: Requiring that bills reported from committees have content that is readily understood by anyone of normal intelligence, reading skill and use of the English language prior to its second consideration.

I will soon introduce legislation to correct the situation in which we, as a legislative body, were placed wherein we voted on a redistricting bill that had no content – except that we were to understand that it would be a bill with content at the time of the third consideration and passage.

To be placed in the position of voting for a bill containing no content invites the public – and our membership itself – to see us as corrupt insiders and complicit, knowing, outsiders, going through required but meaningless motions. We acted as human place-savers, not as sentient representatives of our constituents.

When the Republican majority reported out of Committee and offered an empty bill for second consideration, it showed itself fearful of the exposure the light of day would bring to the bill. There can be no other explanation for ‘filling’ the bill only at its third and final consideration.

Therefore, I offer this Resolution that would require that any bill have meaningful content that may be examined, questioned and debated by our members – and then, voted on.

Should you wish to support the Resolution, contact Jenn Belz at 787-8529 or [jbelz@pahouse.net](mailto:jbelz@pahouse.net).