

AdamHABER

DEMOCRAT FOR STATE SENATE

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

Dear Ms. Birnbaum,

I'm writing to object to the proposed pay raise for our State Legislators for the simple but serious reason that they have failed to pass strong ethics reforms. It is hard to fathom how Albany politicians could feel worthy of a pay raise after refusing to take meaningful action following the corruption charges against Dean Skelos, Sheldon Silver and more of their colleagues. I have worked in business for over 30 years and I can't imagine an individual receiving a pay raise for failing at their job. To add insult to injury, these raises would come from New Yorkers' hard earned tax dollars. This is unacceptable.

Giving this Legislature a raise while they're still allowed to use their campaign accounts as personal ATMs, double-dip into their pensions, dodge contribution limits through the LLC loophole and earn unlimited outside income for other work is abhorrent. The system is obviously broken and nothing substantial is being done about it. Politicians should not be treated any differently than their constituents, the very individuals you are asking to foot the bill for their raise, who already fund their part-time \$79,500 salary.

The State Legislature should not be rewarded for their bad behavior. Instead, they should be taught a lesson and forced to return to Albany next session to address the issue of ethics before you and your commission will even consider legislative pay raises. The people have been clear, they have lost faith in their State Government.

I implore you to use this opportunity, and the power bestowed upon you, to make the common-sense decision to not approve a pay raise for Legislators for the simple reason that they have not deserved it in the wake of scandal after scandal. For this reason alone, the hard working New Yorkers who this Legislature has failed to adequately represent would oppose a legislative pay raise. I do too.

Sincerely,


Adam Haber

CC:

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