
December 31, 2022

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the undersigned, we are writing to support reforms to the Senate Ethics Rules which would provide workplace protections against acts of sexual harassment for both Senate employees and those who advocate on behalf of causes or communities in the Pennsylvania Senate.

In 2019, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives took the important step of establishing these protections for House employees. Unfortunately, the Senate has no such explicit protections for its employees or the advocates and visitors who interact with the Senate every day.

Senator Lindsey Williams and Katie Muth's proposed reforms to the Senate Ethics Rules establish new protocols by which the Senate would address sexual harassment complaints against its Members, Officers, and employees.

Additionally, the proposed reforms would:

- Expand these protections to include ALL individuals working with the Senate, including outside contractors, lobbyists, and visitors.
- Clarify the Committee on Ethics' confidentiality and transparency provisions (when a complaint can be disclosed, under which circumstances meetings and hearings are public vs. closed, etc.).
- Extend the statute of limitations for filing a complaint from 1 to 5 years.

How the Senate chooses to govern itself sends a message to every workplace and employer in the state. It sets the standard to which the Commonwealth should hold itself. Adopting these Senate Ethics reforms would tell everyone who advocates before the Senate that they will be protected from harassment and their safety is of the highest concern.

We urge the inclusion of these important provisions when you adopt the Senate Rules on January 3.

Sincerely,
SEIU Pennsylvania State Council
Pennsylvania AFL-CIO
UFCW 1776
APSCUF
Allegheny Central Labor Council
Philadelphia Central Labor Council
League of Women Voters
Fair Districts PA
Unite HERE Local 274
PA United
PA Stands Up
Make the Road PA

For Our Future PA
Working Families Party
Action Together NEPA
Free the Ballot
Neighborhood Networks
One Pennsylvania
Kendra PAC
We the People
Keystone Research Center
Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center