

NEWS STATEMENT

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As Silver is Sentenced, Cuomo's Inner Circle is Investigated, and the Legislature Returns, Government Watchdogs Demand Corruption-Busting Action

*Call on Governor and Legislature to End Delay and Boldly Act to Pass
Major Ethics Reforms As Corruption Crisis Worsens*

Speaking simultaneously outside the courthouse where former Speaker Silver is to be sentenced within the hour and in the capitol where investigations of state officials are on-going, all six good government groups today joined in a collective condemnation of NYS state government's ever-expanding corruption crisis and called for immediate and comprehensive legislative action on five major reforms. These reforms are needed not only to address the crisis but also to restore some level of public trust for a public that overwhelmingly believes corruption is a major problem for state government.

The groups called on Governor Cuomo, whose administration is now under an active pay-to-play investigation, as the only one who can provide the leadership necessary to enact desperately needed reforms to lessen Albany's pervasive corruption.

The groups also urged legislators to stand up and pass real meaningful reform, and expressed disappointment with the ineffectual one-house bills passed in mid-March.

The watchdog groups call for five needed measures. Any less would be seen as woefully inadequate given the crime wave of corruption rocking our state capitol. They are:

1. Reform legislative compensation to address issues of salary, lulus, and outside income.
2. Limit the influence of dark money campaign contributions by closing the LLC loophole that allows multiple legal entities to make over the limit contributions from a single source or person, and require political contributors to disclose their employers.
3. Slash the contribution limits to political committees by 75% to \$25,000 and place limits on transfers between and from political entities as part of comprehensive campaign finance reform that includes the use of public matching funds.
4. End the “pay to play” activity by identifying and restricting campaign contributions from anyone doing business with the state, including receiving contracts and subsidies.
5. Reform ethics oversight and enforcement by changing JCOPE’s composition, structure, scope, and voting procedures to boost public confidence in its actions.