



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
1102 Q Street • Suite 3000 • Sacramento, CA 95811
(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

May 23, 2019

The Honorable Ash Kalra
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: Assembly Bill 1752 (Kalra) – Committee registration fee and penalty – SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Assembly Member Kalra,

On May 16, 2019, the bi-partisan Fair Political Practices Commission adopted a “support if amended” position on Assembly Bill 1752, a bill that would prohibit the Commission from administering any other penalty for violation of the \$50 committee registration fee outside of the \$150 penalty established in statute.

Under current law, all committees, defined under the Political Reform Act, must pay a \$50 annual registration fee. Failure to pay the registration fee would result in a \$150 fine. Prior to AB 1752, there was uncertainty about whether the Commission could pursue the \$150 fine, plus additional administrative penalties in the Political Reform Act. AB 1752 clarifies this uncertainty and makes the \$150 fine the exclusive penalty for failure to pay the registration fee.

The Commission’s resources are limited and collecting a \$150 fine without any additional penalties is not an efficient use of limited funds and personnel. The Commission is proposing two possible amendments: 1) transfer the enforcement and collection of the \$150 penalty to the Franchise Tax Board or 2) permit the Commission to administratively terminate a committee after 90-days of non-compliance or non-payment of the registration fee and penalty.

We look forward to working with your office to ensure AB 1752 makes the best use of public resources and promotes accountability in our elections. For these reasons, the Commission has adopted a “support if amended” position. If you have any questions, please contact Jay Wierenga at jwierenga@fppc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Jones
Executive Director