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April 20, 2016

The Honorable Jodi Remke  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Legislative Update for April 2016 – SB 1349 (Hertzberg) – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Remke,

On behalf of California Common Cause and our members, I am writing with a letter of support for the staff recommendation to support Senate Bill 1349 (Hertzberg). SB 1349 would direct the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Commission, to modernize Cal-Access, the online system for filing and disclosure of campaign finance and lobbying information.

SB 1349 is sponsored by the Political Reform and Modernization (PRAM) coalition, a diverse group of California's civic leaders which is co-convened by California Common Cause along with the California Business Roundtable, California Forward, and the California Labor Federation. In developing this legislation, PRAM has been proud to work closely with the Commission's chair and staff. We believe that SB 1349 incorporates the Commission's perspective and will produce a modern Cal-Access system that meets the Commission's needs for administering and enforcing the Political Reform Act.

SB 1349 would make Cal-Access more reliable, better inform voters, and simplify compliance by campaigns. Notably, modernizing Cal-Access would increase the transparency of campaign financing without requiring new disclosure rules, simply by providing easier public access to the information that campaigns already report. In fact, SB 1349 may make it possible in the future to streamline or rescind certain manual reporting requirements: for example, when a future Cal-Access system is capable of aggregating contributions from the same contributor.

For these reasons, California Common Cause strongly supports SB 1349 and we request the Commission's support in enacting this crucial bill. Please contact me at [nheidorn@commoncause.org](mailto:nheidorn@commoncause.org) or (916) 443-1792 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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