



March 8, 2019

Honorable Melissa Melendez
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 359 (Melendez) Political Reform Act of 1974: post government employment - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Melendez,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans, (CARA) is pleased to support AB 359, which will extend the prohibition on former Assembly members and Senators lobbying in the Legislature to 5 years, allowing a buffer between a legislator's time in office and their ability to influence current policy negotiations.

Nearly every state has strong "revolving door prohibitions" to forbid former legislators from lobbying for a certain amount of time to ensure former officials don't intentionally or unintentionally place improper influence on staff and colleagues. Yet, California has one of the most lenient revolving door policies. State law prohibits former legislators from lobbying only a year after they serve.

With a two-year legislative cycle, former legislators can heavily influence policy negotiations they took part of as a legislator the year prior – except this time they can influence negotiations with fiscal promises. Californians deserve to have a transparent government without having special interests' dollars involved.

For all these reasons, the California Alliance for Retired Americans supports AB 359. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly
Legislative Director
415-533-5244