



March 28, 2019

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
California State Capitol Room 5061  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**Re: SB 27 (McGuire) Presidential primary elections: ballot access: tax returns – Support**

Dear Senator McGuire:

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support SB 27. CARA, California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, will communicate our support to over 1,000,000 represented seniors and their families through our 275 affiliated organizations. SB 27 establishes qualifications for the California ballot applying to Presidential candidates requiring each to release their tax returns to the voters.

CARA initiated our Senior Vote project last year, finding that senior voters craved more information about candidates, their financial interests and potential conflicts of interest. In an era where the President freely disputes facts and declares without evidence that his personal financial interests do not affect his policy positions, we join Senator McGuire in demanding this transparency. Every senior and every citizen have a right to vote knowing the financial interests of each candidate.

The Presidential Tax Transparency and Accountability Act would, in addition:

- Assist all voters in recognizing potential conflicts of interest.
- Establish accountability where conflict-of-interest laws fail to cover an exempt president.
- Serve as a tax return requirement similar to the signature petition requirement, a procedural ballot access measure.
- Provide insight into domestic and international business dealings.

SB 27 does not exclude any particular candidate. Transparency through the release of a candidate's tax return comports with the values of CARA and our nation's founders. Our founders believed voters had a right to know about the people who would lead them. Let those who wish to keep their secrets do so outside of elective office, but those who would be President must serve up to the people information about their financial interests.

For these reasons, CARA supports SB 27, the Presidential Tax Transparency and Accountability Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly  
Legislative Director  
415-533-5244