

From: [Inga Gibson](#)
To: [Standards of Conduct](#)
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August 17, 2022

Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct

Dear Honorable Judge Foley and Commission Members:

Thank you for all of the Commission's efforts thus far, and for the opportunity to contribute both written and oral testimony at today's hearing.

Corruption stems from power thus all steps must be taken to reduce the ability for one policymaker or one government official to wield such individual power.

In the state legislature this power is given to Committee Chairs to single-handedly decide what bills will or will not be heard and considered. To prevent this abuse of power, the legislature should require the following, as is done in other states:

1. Require that all bills introduced be heard. This may mean limiting the number of bills that each legislator may introduce.
2. Hold public hearings where each Committee openly debates and determines, by voice vote, which bill will be heard. Some states require the bill sponsor to speak in public committee hearings about the bills they've introduced. This would reduce the number of "by request" bills introduced by a legislator on behalf of an unknown party. By request bills should disclose the requester, the way agency and Governor package bills are posted.
4. All bills passing both chambers by the required deadlines should be assigned to Conference Committee. It is not transparent nor fair that bills may be killed/die simply because one Chair or one member, fails to either assign Committee members or one member fails to appear for a Conference Committee vote.
5. Any public official under investigation should immediately be put on administrative leave. For example, Sen English was arrested months before he ultimately resigned and the public was made aware of his earlier offenses. Further, legislative leadership must be held accountable, in some way, for the corrupt or illegal activities of their members, just as the head of an organization or agency is ultimately responsible for actions taken by an employee. If there were consequences for leadership this would deter at least some level of corruption, from both the bottom up and top down.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Inga Gibson

Inga Gibson, Policy Director
Pono Advocacy LLC
808.922.9910
PonoAdvocacy@gmail.com
www.PonoAdvocacy.com