



Attorney General Rob Bonta
Office of the Attorney General
1300 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 4, 2024

Dear Attorney General Bonta,

We write to bring to your attention allegations of “pay-to-play” politics in the crafting of [Assembly Bill 1228](#) and to ask that you initiate an independent and unbiased investigation into the matter.

AB 1228, passed last year, establishes the Fast Food Council and increases the minimum wage for certain fast-food employees by 25%. Exempt from this increase are employees of any restaurant “that on September 15, 2023, operates a bakery that produces for sale ... bread as a stand-alone menu item.” The carveout, which was demanded by the Newsom administration, puzzled industry experts, as it appears to lack any justification based on the unique characteristics of such restaurants.

According to [a report published by Bloomberg](#), one of the primary beneficiaries of this exemption is Greg Flynn, a billionaire owner of two dozen California Panera Bread locations. Disturbingly, Bloomberg reported that in the months surrounding the passage AB 1228, Flynn, a longtime acquaintance of Gov. Newsom, contributed tens of thousands of dollars to the governor’s reelection campaign.

As elected representatives, it is our duty to ensure state government serves the people’s interests, not special interests. The appearance that campaign donations influenced a decision impacting the livelihoods of countless Californians is deeply troubling.

Governor Newsom has described the exemption as “part of the sausage-making” of legislation. If he is unable to provide a better justification for this carveout, it raises serious questions about the integrity of his administration.

The public deserves to know if this exemption was granted based on Mr. Flynn’s bankrolling of Gov. Newsom’s reelection campaign. Our democratic system of government is based on the principle of equal treatment under the law, and even the appearance of corruption undermines our constituents’ trust in their leaders. We urge you to launch a thorough investigation to determine if there was any quid pro quo or impropriety in the decision-making process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that you will take appropriate action to uphold the integrity of our state's governance.

Sincerely,



Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher



Senate Minority Leader Brian Jones



Asm. Meghan Dahle
1st Assembly District



Sen. Brian Dahle
1st Senate District



Asm. Laurie Davies
74th Assembly District



Sen. Roger Niello
6th Senate District



Asm. Diane Dixon
72nd Assembly District



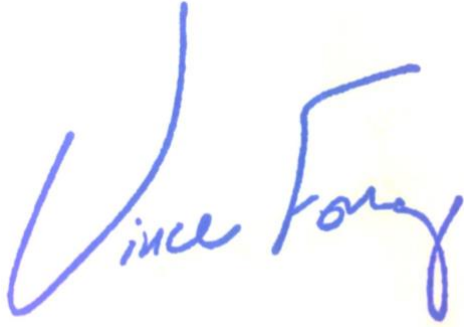
Sen. Kelly Seyarto
32nd Senate District



Asm. Bill Essayli
63rd Assembly District



Sen. Scott Wilk
21st Senate District



Asm. Vince Fong
32nd Assembly District



Asm. Josh Hoover
7th Assembly District



Asm. Tom Lackey
34th Assembly District



Asm. Devon Mathis
33rd Assembly District



Asm. Jim Patterson
8th Assembly District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joe Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Patterson".

Asm. Joe Patterson
5th Assembly District

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kate Sanchez". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with the first name "Kate" written in a large, flowing script and the last name "Sanchez" written in a similar but slightly smaller script.

Asm. Kate Sanchez
71st Assembly District