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MARCH ON HARRISBURG

THE GIFT BAN: HB 484

Introduced in the House by Representatives Jared Solomon and Paul Schemel, HB 484 bans gifts to public officials and employees over \$50/year/giver, and it bans hospitality, travel, and lodging over \$500/year/giver.

According to a 2019 House Government Oversight Committee Hearing, over \$1.5 million/year in gifts are given from lobbyists to State Legislators, and only about \$40,000/year of those gifts are being reported by State Legislators. Reporting loopholes allow 97% of gifts from lobbyists to legislators and their families to remain secret.

But even if we had perfect transparency, gifts still violate the public's trust in our legislators.

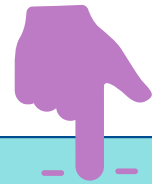
We need our legislators to be responsive to the will of the public, not to gift-giving lobbyists and special interests.

The Gift Ban previously passed out of the House State Government Committee in 2019 and again in 2021. It has never received a full House vote or any Senate votes.

HB 484 is the 35th Gift Ban bill to be introduced in the last 23 years, and it will be the first Gift Ban bill to pass into law.

This is not a total gift ban, there are exceptions for:

1. Gifts between family members.
2. Major life events (weddings, graduations, etc.).
3. Romantic relationships.
4. Informational materials.
5. Awards or prizes in public contests (including lottery winnings).
6. Honorary degrees.
7. Trainings in the interest of a governmental entity.
8. Food at public events, events directly related to their public duties, events where the public official is a speaker, regularly scheduled events sponsored by constituents, statewide organizations, and nonprofits.
9. Gifts between officials and their staff.
10. Educational Missions to educate public officials on matters of public policy.
11. Anything paid for by another governmental entity.
12. An award, plaque, or trophy valued at less than \$100.
13. Items of de minimis economic value (greeting cards, pens, hats, etc.).
14. Light refreshments in a group setting.
15. Admission to bona fide charitable or political events.
16. Reimbursement from organizations of public officials, private foundations (509), and nonprofits (501c4) when it is directly related to the duties of the public official.



**PLEASE
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HB 484,
TELL YOUR
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LEADERSHIP YOU
SUPPORT THE
GIFT BAN, &
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STATEMENTS
TO YOUR
CONSTITUENTS
EXPLAINING
YOUR SUPPORT!**

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