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AN OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
from  
THE COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

Dear Legislators:

Like many residents of our State, we are ashamed of the continuing corruption in Illinois government – not only the discreet acts of wrongdoing but even more the structures and systems that allow and encourage these repeated and fundamental violations of the public trust.

We appeal strongly to you to take the unusual opportunity of this moment to enact legislation during this spring session of the General Assembly that will bring enduring integrity to our political system in Illinois.

Being aware that there is a wide array of proposals before you to accomplish the needed political reform in our State, we urge you to use the framework and recommendations of the Illinois Reform Commission as a guide. We also urge you to exercise ethical responsibility and political courage in reaching your decisions, the consequences of which will be long lasting for Illinois.

We pray that you will draw on the best of your own religious and civic values and your deepest moral convictions, to bring forth a re-formation of political life in Illinois that will bring honor, not shame, to our State now and in the future. We believe those core values and convictions demand transparency in all parts of government. We believe that voters, not moneyed interests, guide political decisions, and that strict and enforceable laws guard against corruption and violation of the democratic process.

In the few remaining weeks of this session of the General Assembly, we pledge to do everything we can, through our constituencies, to help you take the steps that are required and, on a continuing basis, to hold you accountable, not to us, but to the residents of Illinois.

Sincerely,

His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago  
President  
Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago

MEMBERS INCLUDE RELIGIOUS  
LEADERS FROM THE:

African Methodist Episcopal Church

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

American Baptist Churches of Metro  
Chicago

Armenian Orthodox Church

Baptist General Convention of Illinois

Baptist Ministers' Conference of  
Chicago and Vicinity

Chicago Board of Rabbis

Christian Church/ Disciples of Christ

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Church of God in Christ

Church of the Brethren

Council for Islamic Organizations of  
Greater Chicago

Episcopal Church (U.S.A.)

Evangelical Covenant Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Greek Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America

Pentecostal Assemblies of the World

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Reformed Church in America

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Roman Catholic Church

Salvation Army

Serbian Orthodox Church

Ukrainian Catholic Church

Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Unitarian Universalist Association

United Baptist State Convention

United Church of Christ

United Methodist Church

Catholic Theological Union

Chicago Theological Seminary

Lutheran School of Theology

McCormick Theological Seminary

Meadville-Lombard Theological School

Chicago Center for Cultural Connections

Community Renewal Society