

July 1, 2008

The Honorable Glenn Koepp
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: Senate Bill No. 53 by Senator Shaw
Ethics: Provides that any complaint filed anonymously with the Board of Ethics shall not be investigated or addressed by the board.

Dear Mr. Koepp:

Senate Bill No. 53 would prohibit the Board of Ethics from accepting, considering, and investigating any complaint that does not include the name and contact information of the complainant. Though it does not require public release of this information, I am nonetheless concerned that this bill will discourage citizens from reporting misconduct for fear of reprisal and that rejecting anonymous complaints at face value will result in incidents of actual misconduct not being prosecuted. These same concerns have guided the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and at least twenty states to use anonymous complaints.

For these reasons, I have vetoed SB 53 and hereby return it to the Senate.

Very truly yours,

Bobby Jindal
Governor

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