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CITIZENS UNION COMMENDS ETHICS REFORM BILL PASSED TODAY BY THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

Good Government Group Urges Governor to Sign Needed Ethics Bill

Statement by Dick Dadey, Executive Director

Citizens Union applauds the overwhelming support shown today by the state legislature in approving meaningful ethics reform. The bipartisan two-house show of support for this bill demonstrates that a broad political spectrum of state legislators have heard the public clamor for reform and understand the need to begin cleaning up Albany.

There has been a lot of talk in Albany over the past few years, and more intensely in the past month, about the need to enact consequential ethics reform. With the passage of this desperately needed measure that holds the promise of change, it is nice today to see action finally replacing the talk. We acknowledge that there is more work to be done on ethics reform, but what remains unfinished should not stop the progress that is being achieved today.

We congratulate and thank Senate Conference Leader Sampson, Assembly Speaker Silver, Senate Republican Leader Skelos and Assembly Republican Leader Kolb for finding the common ground needed to begin addressing the very serious issue of ethics reform.

We urge Governor Paterson to seize this opportunity to enact his desire to reform state government by signing this bill into law.

This victory today is indeed progress. But it marks only one step forward of many steps that still need to be taken on the march toward a more open, accountable and honest state government. The journey to change Albany and to restore a small measure of New Yorkers' trust in their state government began today.

Citizens Union of the City of New York, a nonpartisan force for good government for more than 100 years, works to inform and engage New Yorkers, to ensure local and state government values its citizens, addresses critical issues, and operates in a fair, open, and fiscally sound manner.

