



# AMERICANS FOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT

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June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

The Honorable Darrell Issa  
United States House of Representatives  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

**BY FAX:** 202-225-3303

Re: Request for Investigation of Representative Joe Sestak

Dear Representative Issa,

As you are well aware, the White House last week for the first time conceded that it last year offered Representative Joe Sestak a Presidential appointment as an alternative to running in the Pennsylvania Democratic Senate primary against Senator Arlen Specter. This followed an initial denial from the Obama Administration,<sup>1</sup> and then an acknowledgement that conversations had taken place with Representative Sestak, but that they were not “problematic.”<sup>2</sup>

Now, the White House Legal Counsel Robert Bauer has admitted that the Obama Administration engaged in “discussions of alternatives to the Senate campaign” and at least promised an appointment in exchange for Sestak pulling out of the race.<sup>3</sup>

The current admission from the White House that an “uncompensated” position to a Presidential advisory board was offered, however, contradicts Sestak’s original admission that a “high-ranking” job had been offered. An unpaid position on an advisory board is not “high-ranking,” and as a Representative, Sestak knows that. When asked by journalist Larry Kane if the job offered was “high-ranking,” Sestak said yes.

Now, Sestak is claiming that former President Bill Clinton, acting as an intermediary for the White House, spoke with him “about my being on a Presidential Board while remaining in the House of Representatives.”<sup>4</sup>

This surprising change in Sestak’s original story casts a high degree of suspicion on the Representative. Even though he declined the offer of an appointment in both versions of events, the revision of his original story

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/84835732.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.politicspa.com/gibbs-wh-conversations-with-sestak-clean/8219/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://abcnews.go.com/images/Politics/Sestak%20Memorandum.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2010/05/white-house-memo-on-sestak-discussions-refutes-alleged-misconduct-.html>

could make him complicit in the cover-up of the commission of a crime. This warrants an immediate investigation by the House of Representatives in some capacity to ascertain the facts, and to determine whether or not Sestak is involved with a cover-up of a violation of the law.

According to 18 U.S.C. § 600, entitled “Promise of employment or other benefit for political activity”:

*“Whoever, directly or indirectly, promises any employment, position, compensation, contract, appointment, or other benefit, provided for or made possible in whole or in part by any Act of Congress, or any special consideration in obtaining any such benefit, to any person as consideration, favor, or reward for any political activity or for the support of or opposition to any candidate or any political party in connection with any general or special election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election or political convention or caucus held to select candidates for any political office, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.”*

Even if all Sestak was offered was a position on a Presidential advisory board — which is to be doubted based on Sestak’s statement confirming that it was a “high-ranking” job offered — it still violates the law. Making matters worse, a failure to be fully forthcoming about the facts surrounding the case by Sestak implicates his involvement in a cover-up.

It is up to the House to get to the bottom of this escalating scandal, to subpoena all relevant parties, including but not limited to White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emmanuel, former President Bill Clinton, and President Barack Obama.

Representative Sestak has a duty to be fully forthcoming regarding this clear violation of law, lest he be deemed an accomplice in its concealment. An official investigation is the proper venue for an initial finding of facts, under oath, which will advise further action by the House. It is time for Representative Sestak to fully come clean.

Sincerely,



William Wilson  
President  
Americans for Limited Government