

## [HB 5586](#)

- My name is Kim Murphy-Kovalick, and I am the Programs Director at Voters Not Politicians.
- Chair Byrnes and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. Thank you Rep Hope for introducing this bill.
- I am here on behalf of Voters Not Politicians volunteers who represent every corner of the state of Michigan, to voice our support of House bill 5586.
- Voters across the state deserve an ethical, accountable, and transparent government that works for the people, not special interests.
- Voters want confidence that their elected representatives are focused on policies that best serve the people, not on auditioning for their next job as a lobbyist
- Delaying the transition from lawmaker to lobbyist by one year is one important step in preventing conflicts of interest in the legislature.
- Legislators at the end of their terms are susceptible to offers from lobbying firms whilst still in office. A significant percentage of legislators who become lobbyists do so within [6 months of leaving office](#). As published in Bridge Magazine, a review by Craig Mauger and Ted Roelofs found the following:

“Reviewing a list of more than 1,000 registered lobbyists in Michigan, Bridge Magazine and the Michigan Campaign Finance Network found 44 former Michigan legislators.

Of those, 28 — 63 percent — registered as lobbyists within a year of leaving their posts in the House or the Senate. Twenty-five registered as lobbyists within six months of leaving office.”

- The remedy here is simple: closing the revolving door by imposing a one-year cooling off period will ensure that public faith in policy decisions is maintained.
- Our democracy cannot thrive if those chosen to uphold it are leveraging their position as policy makers to audition for positions as lobbyists in their final months in office.
- To fix our state’s real problems, like protecting our Great Lakes, fixing our roads, and setting up students for success, we must enact common sense policies that bring transparency, ethics and accountability to Lansing. HB 5586 is part of that solution.

- Thank you for your time today