

# *State Rep. Donates More Than \$20,000 of Pay Raises to Charities*

**For Immediate Release:  
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State Rep. Greg Lavelle  
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As he's done every year since 2005, when state legislators received a pay raise without having to cast a vote for it, State Rep. Greg Lavelle (R-Sharples) is donating his salary hike to charity. The sixth allotment since he started the practice, his total contributions now exceed \$20,000.

"Aside from benefiting the worthy work of some very good non-profit groups, this action is intended to call attention to an ethically-challenged system that allows legislators to receive a raise without having to be held accountable for the decision," Rep. Lavelle said.

Established in 1984, the Delaware Compensation Commission reviews the salaries of top legislative, judicial and executive branch officials every four years and issues recommendations. This report automatically becomes law *unless* lawmakers intervene to stop it.

"I believe this is wrong and I've repeatedly, and unsuccessfully, sponsored legislation to make the commission's report non-binding," Rep. Lavelle said.

The most recent attempt, House Bill 55, died on the House Ready List after languishing in the House Administration Committee for 15 months. Also sponsored by Sen. Karen Peterson (D-Stanton), HB 55 sought to remove the autonomous mandate on the commission's recommendations and make the report advisory in nature.

Nearly identical legislation was passed by the House of Representatives during the 144<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and the 143<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly as House Bill 2 and House Bill 48, respectively. Both of those bills died bottled-up in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"I'll continue to try to convince my colleagues to pay high-ranking state officials in the same fashion as we pay other state employees, through the state budget that's voted on by the General Assembly," Rep. Lavelle said. "Until that happens, I'll continue to donate my raises."

This year's charitable contributions will be split among six organizations that serve the community: the B+ Foundation; the Claymont Community Center; Claymont Renaissance Development Corporation; the Development Corporation; the Parent Information Center of Delaware; Reach Academy for Girls; and the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware.

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