



# Senator Loretta Weinberg

## Majority Leader

### District 37

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February 4, 2016

Thomas J. Wilson  
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer  
Allstate Insurance Company  
2775 Sanders Rd.  
Northbrook, IL 60062

Laurence D. Fink  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
BlackRock Capital Management  
100 Bellevue Parkway  
Wilmington, DE 19809

Dennis R. Glass  
President, Chief Executive Officer  
Lincoln National Corp  
150 North Radnor Chester Road, Suite A305  
Radnor, PA 19087

Irene Rosenfeld  
Chairman and Chief executive Officer  
Mondelez International  
Three Parkway North  
Deerfield, IL 60015

William S. Demchak  
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
PNC Financial Services Group  
One PNC Plaza, 249 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-2707

Dan Houston  
President and CEO  
Principal Life Insurance Company  
10, 1155 Ave of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036

Michael L. Tipsford  
President and CEO  
State Farm Insurance  
One State Farm Plaza  
Bloomington, IL 61710

Dear Executive Leadership:

First, let me say thank you for all you do to help New Jersey's economy – for the jobs you create and the investments you make in our great state. I am writing to bring an issue to your attention that is concerning to me and to many of us who are so proud to represent our state and champion our values.

In October, I wrote a letter, which I made public, in which I urged institutions like yours end further campaign contributions to US Congressman Scott Garrett, given his blatant bigotry toward the LGBT community. As I'm sure you've read in publications such as the *Bergen Record*, the *Star-Ledger*, *BusinessWeek*, and the *New York Times*, last year, Scott Garrett told a group of Republicans that he refused to pay his dues to the Republican Party until the Party stopped supporting gay candidates for Congress. *BusinessWeek's* headline was "Washington's Bigot."

I am pleased to report that companies, including Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan Chase immediately stopped contributing to Garrett. Given their values, and the fact that many of their employees and customers are part of the LGBT community, it just didn't comport with the way they did business in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A few have even gone a step further by publicly repudiating Congressman Garrett's views while announcing their full support for LGBT rights.

Most companies have very clear policies supporting the LGBT community, like they do for women and people of all racial and religious backgrounds; anything short of complete equality is antiquated and certainly not in line with companies that do business here in New Jersey.

Unfortunately, after reviewing the FEC Report released last week, it's clear that some companies, like yours, haven't followed suit. In lieu of all of the stories and coverage about this issue, I can only interpret your continued support of Congressman Garrett as an endorsement of his views toward the LGBT community.

This is certainly disappointing. It sends a very clear and sharp message to your employees and customers. If you look at the list of companies, many are name brands and most, if not all, have LGBT policies that are now at odds with their giving.

For example, PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. continues to financially support Mr. Garrett despite the their dedicated website page explaining the company's "LGBT Commitment," writing: "By working together and fostering inclusion, we can better meet the needs of our customers, communities and shareholders in our increasingly diverse marketplace. It's why we're committed to our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) employees, communities and customers in the markets we serve." I fail to understand how PNC, which has many branches, employees and customers in my district, reconciles these contradictory positions.

Similarly, Allstate has created its "Out Holding Hands" campaign to tell the public how much it cares about LGBT rights, "We believe holding hands out in public is a human right, no matter who you love. It's both a sign of affection and solidarity," says the company website. Yet, Allstate continues to financially support Mr. Garrett. How does Allstate explain this dichotomy to its employees and customers? How does State Farm Insurance, Mondelez International, First Energy, and the Principal Life Insurance Company?

Other companies such as Blackrock Capital management invest our state pension dollars. The Capital Group has employees in the state as does the Lincoln National Group and the National Association of Realtors.

As the New Jersey State Senate Majority Leader, I want to ensure that the citizens, businesses, state and local governments of New Jersey with whom you conduct business are made aware of your support. Having served as an elected official for over 25 years I can say with absolute certainty that the people of New Jersey stand against bigotry of all types.

I am hopeful that after reading this letter, and looking further into this issue, you will discontinue your support and that you will ask for your contribution to be returned immediately. Any future support will remove any ambiguity as to where you stand on one of the most important civil rights issues of our time and toward equal opportunity for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loretta Weinberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Loretta Weinberg  
Majority Leader  
New Jersey Senate