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MARYLAND STATE LODGE
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KENNETH SCHUBERT
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06 November 2024

The Honorable Andrew P. Harris, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Harris,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police regarding your underhanded and reprehensible conduct while presiding over the House chamber on Tuesday evening.

While thousands of law enforcement officers, firefighters and government workers were going to the polls, you and Representative Robert G. Good conspired to violate the rules and practices of the House, which prohibit unanimous consent requests without the prior consent of the chairman and ranking members of the committee of jurisdiction as well as that of the Speaker of the House and the Minority Leader. You did not have this consent but as the presiding officer allowed the request to table H.R. 82, the "Social Security Fairness Act," to proceed. You demonstrated great disrespect for the House, your colleagues, and the millions of retired public employees who have lost a benefit they earned through their work because of Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Because you failed to adhere to the practices of the House for unanimous consent requests during a *pro forma* session, a bill that has the support of 330 of your colleagues and which was scheduled to be considered next week now faces additional obstacles.

Presiding officers are responsible for adhering to the rules and practices of House. They should not conspire with their colleagues to violate them. Your conduct was shameful and an affront to the people of the district. You actively sought to deprive your fellow Representatives with the right to consider a very popular and bipartisan bill which they should view as a grave breach of trust. You should be sanctioned and certainly not permitted to preside over future meetings of the House, as you have demonstrated you cannot live up to that responsibility.

Sincerely,

Clyde Boatwright
President, Maryland State Lodge

cc: Patrick Yoes, National President, Fraternal Order of Police

Representing the Professional Police Officers of the State of Maryland