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The Honorable Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker DeLeo,

In light of the recent acquittal of Boston firefighter Albert Arroyo on federal mail fraud charges, a case my office co-investigated with the federal government, I write to urge your support for legislation that would establish a general fraud statute on the state level. Such a law would allow state prosecution of individuals who commit fraud against the state or its political subdivisions. According to various news reports, the jurors in the Arroyo case believed that he had committed fraud, just not mail fraud.

I have filed House bill 9, An Act Relative to Fraud, which would address this issue by establishing a general fraud statute in the Massachusetts General Laws. The language of the bill parallels the federal mail fraud statute but does not require the use of the mail to determine guilt. I have attached a copy of the bill for your review.

Given the Arroyo acquittal, now is the appropriate time to enact a statute that would add another tool for law enforcement to use to stop fraud. As someone whose charge is to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse in the expenditure of public funds, I believe this type of statute would go a long way towards curbing fraud against public entities.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance in this matter.

Respectfully,

Gregory W. Sullivan

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