

To the committee regarding the Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Bill 2020 and Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2020,

Even the honourable Pope Payne must answer to a higher power. A bill that excludes judicial review threatens to undermine the judicial branch. The same judicial branch guaranteed in the constitution that protects against the absolute centralization of executive power. The Federal government is not empowered to limit the jurisdiction of the High Court in this matter and the High Court has original jurisdiction in all matters affecting consuls or other representatives of other countries. Even if passed it would be to no effect. The goals of this bill require a referendum.

Yes. Foreign powers should negotiate with the federal government but the executive must still act fairly, transparently and with integrity. The 2018 Australian Research Council Linkage Project, *Strengthening Australia's National Integrity System: Priorities for Reform* highlights fairness as the first step toward integrity. Only a corrupt government would suggest that the judicature be disregarded.

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