

## Brinkley demands ACORN investigation

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A [Frederick](#) County state senator is asking Maryland's attorney general to investigate the activities of ACORN, a national community organizing group caught in a videotape scandal.

In four hidden-camera interviews, conservative activists posing as a pimp and prostitute were given legal and tax advice by ACORN workers.

The first released of those videos was taped in ACORN's Baltimore office.

State Sen. David Brinkley, a Republican who represents [Frederick](#) and Carroll counties, saw the videos and is demanding an investigation.

He sent a letter to Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler on Friday.

"I would hope that anybody would get on board of an investigation of an organization that would espouse juvenile prostitution and housing illegal immigrants like that," Brinkley said.



Brinkley

A spokeswoman for Gansler could not be reached Friday.

In the letter, Brinkley took Gansler to task for not investigating ACORN but pursuing an audit of state waterways.

"Doesn't the conspiracy and activity of these ACORN activists merit this State's attention? The activity discussed in the ACORN video is far more heinous to society!" Brinkley's letter states.

He suggested Gansler's office consider looking to see if federal funding to ACORN passed through the state through Community Housing and Development funds as a way to find authority to investigate.

He also pointed out that the office routinely pursues Medicare and Medicaid fraud cases, even though Medicare and Medicaid are federal programs.

"Surely there is a mechanism for your office to ensure that ANY money provided to ACORN by the taxpayers is entirely directed to their purported mission of 'community and leadership development programs' and NOT used to offer advice on how to skirt reporting requirements and set up fraudulent, illicit enterprises," the letter states.

Brinkley isn't the only member of the [Frederick](#) County state delegation taking notice of the ACORN scandal.

Delegate Sue Hecht, a [Frederick](#) Democrat, said news reports and the tapes give her reason for concern.

"I think a lot of eyes are on this issue, as they should be," Hecht said.

But she does not believe Gansler has the statutory authority in Maryland to start such an investigation. The state's attorney in Baltimore would initiate a criminal investigation, she said, or the governor could request an investigation.

"I think (state officials are) trying to weed out who is best to do this and how to proceed," she said.

Other delegation members are relying on the House and Senate Republican caucuses to ask for investigations and look into the law.

[Frederick](#) County Delegation Chairman Paul Stull, a Republican, said the House Republican Caucus has been writing letters asking for an investigation and cutting off federal funds.

Stull has been following the actions of ACORN in the national news for some time, including allegations of voter fraud.

He was upset by those stories and comments he heard from ACORN members, he said.

"And then when I saw what was happening in the videos, it just validated everything I had surmised all along, that there was some real hanky-panky going on in that organization," Stull said.