

January 30, 2024

Testimony on SB 16
Election Law - Campaign Finance - Draft Committees and Exploratory Committees
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland is in support of SB 16, which would apply certain campaign finance requirements and prohibitions to draft committees and exploratory committees.

Maryland has a well-developed system of campaign finance law, a system that ensures everyday citizens can trace who is making donations and what special interest voices are being heard in that process. Given the amount of money that can be spent testing the feasibility of an individual's candidacy, we believe that both draft and exploratory committees should be required to adhere to the same level of scrutiny - it is critical that citizens be able to see who is funding these efforts.

This bill will allow for greater disclosure and transparency around these committees, giving the public the opportunity to see who is spending time and money to influence our elections. For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 16.