

February 11, 2020

Testimony on HB 534
Election Law- Campaign Finance Entities- Responsible Officers
Ways and Means

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland is in support of HB 534 which would prohibit certain family members and certain employees of a candidate from serving as the treasurer of the candidate's authorized candidate campaign committee.

Treasurers of campaigns have a huge responsibility. If there's an enforcement action against a committee, the treasurer is usually named as a respondent. Treasurers can even be found officially liable for the actions they take. That is why candidates have to be discerning about who they choose for this role. Because of the legal implications of this role, this employment decision is now concern of the government.

Simply, there is a concern that when family members serve in the role of treasurer, their can be a conflict of interest. Both treasurer and candidate have to be able to hold each other accountable in their respective roles. With family, this could become complicated.

This legislation will be helpful for avoiding conflict of interest and increasing compliance with campaign finance laws. We must encourage Maryland campaign finance transparency. We urge the committee to give a favorable report.