



BILL: HB1125

BILL TITLE: Public Financing Act – Candidate and Matching Fund Revisions (Maryland Fair Elections Act)

BILL CONTACT: Delegate Feldmark

POSITION: Support

February 27, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1125 (and HB1351)

**Cristi Demnowicz, Chair
Represent Maryland**

Public Election Funds are the #1 solution that Represent Maryland advocates for in order to expand and secure democracy for the future.

Although our voter roles have grown over the last 150 years to include nearly all citizens of the USA, access to the resources needed to successfully run for public office has narrowed. Currently, successful candidates must be willing to accept large money donations from the smallest group of people or be able to fund their campaign themselves. There is nothing democratic about that.

Through courting big money donors, candidates-turned-lawmakers remain out of touch with the needs and struggles of the average voter, which is very apparent in policy decisions that help corporations and the wealthy while putting more burdens on the working class.

If this legislature wants the future of Maryland to be a democratic one, where all people's voices are heard and valued, you must act now to strengthen our only existing alternative funding source from which average people of various backgrounds and experience can fund their campaigns and win. Including candidates for state senator and delegate, and other state wide offices will ensure more people of average background, wealth and connection have input and influence over the future of Maryland. Maryland was built by a citizen legislature of hard working farmers and factory workers. We ask that you find this pair of bills favorable in order to keep it that way.

Sincerely,
Cristi Demnowicz
Chair
Represent Maryland
Maryland Voter-D45

Represent Maryland is a grassroots anti-corruption group of citizen advocates that #FightForDemocracy in Maryland.

Our democracy solutions include: Public Election Funds, Independent Redistricting, Special Elections, Ranked Choice Voting, Increased Ethics and Transparency, and Increased Voter Participation.

Learn more about our work at www.RepresentMaryland.org