



BILL: HB0576

BILL TITLE: Election Law - Political Clubs

BILL SPONSOR: Delegate Hornberger

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

HEARING DATE: February 2, 2021

TESTIMONY ON HB0576

Cristi Demnowicz, Chair
Represent Maryland

Represent Maryland agrees with the concept of this bill: that all organized entities who are doing political work, and are actively **fundraising**, should be required to file campaign finance reports in order to increase transparency in money in politics.

However as written, the term “political club” is not defined. Without a definition, we believe there is room to abuse the term in the future, potentially harming grassroots, unfunded, community organizers.

We ask the sub-committee to work with Delegate Hornberger to define the term “political club” to one that will not harm grassroots organizers in the future.

Sincerely,
Cristi Demnowicz
Chair
Represent Maryland
Maryland Voter-LD07

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

Authorized by Represent Maryland PAC, T. Miller, Treasurer