

**January 19, 2021**

**Testimony on HB 136 –  
Election Law - Campaign Contributions – Alterations and Prohibitions on Sports and Event Wagering  
Business Entities  
Ways and Means**

**Position: Favorable**

Common Cause Maryland supports HB 136, which would prohibit certain sport and event wagering business entities or videos lottery operator from directly or indirectly making campaign contributions to campaign finance entities.

Since the disastrous *Citizens United* decision and its progeny, Americans have continued to resent the growing undue influence of corporations and the wealthy on our politics. This disdain was a theme in both the Republican and Democratic presidential primaries and is even displayed in four counties and Baltimore City, where voters chose to implement a publicly funded solution to allow candidates to run just on the support of real people in their communities.

This legislature has made significant efforts to ensure transparency and clear boundaries in our campaign finance system. However, due to a series of decisions by the Supreme Court, many of our key provisions have been undermined or struck down. Corporate donations can flow into third party expenditures without any oversight by the candidates those expenditures impact. And despite this committee's attempts to close the LLC loophole, they are still enjoying an excessive ability to donate to campaigns.

This reform would ensure that major donors in the sports and event wagering industry are not able to skirt our campaign finance rules or give themselves an undue influence in our elections.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report.