

March 23, 2022

Testimony on House Bill 17
Campaign Finance – Recurring Contributions and Donations – Requirements
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1300 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge you to support House Bill 17 to improve the fairness and transparency of political fund-raising in Maryland.

This bill deals with a fund-raising practice that received significant attention during the last national election. House Bill 17 requires the candidate to be more transparent with their donors and it seeks to eliminate a corrupt practice of charging donors for a recurring contribution when that may not have been their intention.

By requiring a donor to give an affirmative confirmation that they agreed to a recurring charge and by receiving a receipt for each contribution that the candidate has received from the donor, the practice of soliciting and accepting recurring donations will be much more transparent. Also, by making it easier for the donor to understand what they have agreed to and how to terminate the agreement, it gives the donor more control over their contributions.

We urge you to give House Bill 17 **a favorable report.**