



THE COORDINATING CENTER
INSPIRED SOLUTIONS

Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 1343 – Major State Contractors - Donations to Advocacy Organizations - Disclosure

Hearing Date: April 4, 2022

Position: Letter of Information

The Coordinating Center would like to raise questions about *House Bill 1343 – Major State Contractors - Donations to Advocacy Organizations - Disclosure*. The legislation seeks to improve transparency related to advocacy by state contractors but we feel that there are many questions around this bill will be implemented.

We are particularly confused about what it means for a communication to be “related to” a major state project. For example, if a nonprofit received a \$1 million contact to provide a service to Marylanders, it is unclear if it would implicate the bill’s reporting requirements if the nonprofit hired a contractor to make the public aware of the services provided by the nonprofit. Additionally, it is unclear how HB 1343 would be implicated if a major state contractor hired a company to do public relations work but the company was engaging in advocacy related to a major state project on behalf of another client.

Although we support to goals of increased transparency, we believe that more time is needed to ensure that legislation is properly tailored to address the need for transparency without having adverse impacts. If we can provide any additional information that is helpful, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.