



April 5th, 2022

Testimony of Laura Hale
American Heart Association

Oppose HB 1343 Major State Contractors - Donations to Advocacy Organizations - Disclosure

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

The American Heart Association writes in concern and opposition to HB 1343 Major State Contractors - Donations to Advocacy Organizations - Disclosure.

Although the intent of this bill is important, we are concerned about the unintended consequences of the legislation as written and how it may affect both advocacy and donations for 501(c)3 public charities. The bill's definition of an "advocacy organization" is not explicitly limited to 501c(4) organizations, and it could be read in a way that includes all charitable organizations that engage in even occasional commentary on issues of importance to their communities.

We fear that this would have a chilling effect for those 501(c)3 organizations that engage in advocacy, and for our donors. This bill would create a compliance nightmare for organizations that rely on mid-size donations. People donating \$1,000—the minimum donation in the House-amended language—in support of an important cause could find themselves unaware that they need to file paperwork with the state. Following such a donation, the organization could inadvertently create a violation for our donors by commenting on issues of public concern.

Due to the many uncertainties around the legislation, the American Heart Association urges an unfavorable report on HB 1343.