

# REPRESENT MARYLAND

#FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

.ORG

**BILL:** HB0344

**BILL TITLE:** Election Law - Campaign Finance - Contributions (Prohibiting Pay to Play Act of 2022)

**BILL SPONSOR:** Delegate Palakovich Carr

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means

**POSITION:** FAVORABLE

**HEARING DATE:** February 8, 2022

## TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB0344 (Addendum)

This is in addition to the written testimony submitted by a member of our organization.

As it currently operates, the state contracting system is only realistically accessible to a small number of service providers, many of whom have pre-existing connections to the very people who oversee the agencies they contract with. Banning campaign contributions from for-profit entities that do business with the state is a logical step to reducing corruption, self-dealing, and pay-to-play politics in Maryland.

Voters across the spectrum have not only lost faith in government and elected officials, many also believe politicians are actively working to enrich themselves, regardless of the negative impact it has on regular people. In order to restore faith in government, bold changes must take place. Banning campaign contributions from those who can use them to curry special favor would be a great start.

Please find HB0344 favorable and move to the house floor for a vote.

Sincerely,  
Cristi Demnowicz, Chair  
Represent Maryland

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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](http://www.RepresentMaryland.org)  
Authorized by Represent Maryland PAC, T Miller, Treasurer