



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

Represent Maryland is a grassroots, all volunteer group of voters who believe in democracy and oppose corruption. We formed in 2015 to fight against the influence of big money in politics and to ensure that everyone can participate in our democratic system of governance, regardless of financial status.

Lobbying currently sways our political system in large ways, and it is one of the leading causes of corruption given its pervasiveness. Reducing the influence of lobbying on our politics is integral to upholding democracy in Maryland. Keeping political influence localized to residents of a candidate's district is important as well. Candidates should not be influenced by large entities outside of their district, because those entities usually do not deeply understand or respect the needs of residents.

This bill would reduce the impact of big money in politics and help keep politics local. Thus, we implore committee members to find this piece of legislation favorable.

Sincerely,
Anthony Caruso, Member
Represent Maryland
Maryland Voter-LD06

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

Authorized by Represent Maryland PAC, T Miller, Treasurer