



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 17 Campaign Finance – Recurring Contributions and Donations – Requirements

POSITION: Support

BY: Nancy Soreng, LWVMD President

Date: January 19, 2022

The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports campaign finance regulation that enhances political equality for all citizens, ensures transparency, protects representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions, and combats corruption. Typically, we testify about campaign finance legislation that requires transparency for the general public to understand the sources and amounts of donations that candidates are receiving. This bill is different in that it 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 a favorable report on HB 17.