

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL1378 – FAVORABLE

HOUSE BILL 1378 Corporations and Associations - Limitations on Election and Ballot Issue Activities (Maryland Corporate Power Reset Act)

GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

March 2, 2026

Dear Chair Wells, Vice-Chair Kerr, Members of the Committee

I offer favorable testimony in support of HB1378: Corporations and Associations – Limitations on Election and Ballot Issue Activities

When the Supreme Court struck down existing limits on corporate independent spending in the Citizens United decision, they opened the door to unlimited spending by these entities with zero accountability.

The justices thought this would be OK. They thought that corporate spending would be fully transparent and “independent” from how campaigns choose to spend their money.

Seriously?? In what universe?? How naïve. Money talks. Everyone knows this. This decision has undone decades of efforts to get big money out of election financing and make campaign financing more transparent. This decision has eroded public trust in elections and the power of their individual vote.

HB1378 turns off the faucet of these excessive, untracked contributions, one step toward restoring voters’ confidence in the power of their vote.

I urge the House Government, Labor and Elections Committee to issue a **favorable report on House Bill 1378**.

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