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Prince George's County

Chair, Rules and Executive  
Nominations Committee

Environment and Transportation  
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Agriculture and Aquaculture

Motor Vehicle and Transportation

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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
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**SPONSOR TESTIMONY**  
**HB 1405 - Election Law - Campaign Finance Activities –**  
**Candidates for State Office**  
**March 4, 2026**

Good afternoon, Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr and Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Delegate Anne Healey, and I am seeking your support in favor of Election Law - Campaign Finance Activities – Candidates for State Office.

Maryland's session fundraising restriction was enacted to reduce the risk and appearance of impropriety while the General Assembly is actively conducting the State's business, or while the legislature is in session. The underlying premise is clear: fundraising activity during session can create pressure tied to legislative action. But, under current law, that restriction applies only to incumbents.

If we accept that fundraising during session creates potential pressure on an officeholder connected to pending votes, then the converse must also be true. When donors are prohibited from contributing to an incumbent during session, they remain free to contribute to that incumbent's challenger. Financial pressure does not disappear — it can simply be redirected.

An individual or entity dissatisfied with a legislative position may redirect financial support to the incumbent's opponent at the very moment legislative decisions are being made. That dynamic maintains the very pressure the statute was intended to eliminate.

HB 1405 does not broaden the types of activities that are prohibited, and it does not change the penalty structure. It simply applies the existing session fundraising restriction uniformly to all candidates seeking the same office. If the purpose of the law is to insulate the legislative process from fundraising pressure during session, then that protection should apply to the office itself — not only to the individual currently holding it.

HB 1405 ensures the session fundraising restriction applies evenly to the office, not just the officeholder.

For those reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report.