

Chair Rep Warner, Vice-chair Rep Drazen and Rep Holvey, and members of the committee:

I am writing to express my continued strong opposition to HB 2680-1 despite the amendments and strong support for HB 3343. HB 2680-1 continues to use "person" as donor source of contributions. "Person" is defined as individual, labor union, or corporation. This still allows for in-numerable shell corporations to be set up solely to funnel money through. It has redefined "membership organizations(labor unions) such that it can be formed and not yet approved by IRS as 501(c) so that in-numerable shell labor unions can be formed solely to funnel money through also. Campaign limits are meaningless in this context.

In addition, small donor political parties may continue to receive unlimited contributions from membership organizations. Unlimited entities are loopholes for the flow of money. There should not be any unlimited contributions.

There is additional language allowing local governments to adopt lower limits which appears to be an improvement but does not state specifically that they could not adopt higher limits or void limits entirely all together allowing for money to be re-contributed to Caucus committees, party committees, or candidates through other existing loopholes.

There has been no change to enforcement with continued inadequate maximum penalties. There is no deterrent which alone makes the bill meaningless in addition to the use of "person" as described above. Also enforcement is by partisan officials allowing for bias without a role for citizen involvement.

While I appreciate that there is public funding included in HB 2680-1, candidates taking advantage of this would continue to be at a significant disadvantage if there is not meaningful campaign limits in place. Meaningful campaign limits, public financing, and strong disclosure requirements is what is needed. I urge your support for HB 3343 and HB 2921.

IN summary, I would like to express my strong opposition to HB 2680-1. It is riddled with loopholes and does nothing to minimize the undue influence of money deepening public distrust and makes the case for the need for a ballot initiative for "real" change to occur.

Thank you for your consideration,
Debbie Wong