



Testimony of Sarah Woodbury, Director of Advocacy, Defend Our Health
In SUPPORT of LD 1417, "An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Reform"
Before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee
April 26, 2021

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Sarah Woodbury. I am the state advocacy director for Defend Our Health, formerly the Environmental Health Strategy Center. Defend Our Health works to make sure everyone has equal access to safe food, safe drinking water, healthy homes and toxic-free, climate-friendly products. I am here to testify in support to LD 1417, "An Act Regarding Campaign Finance Reform".

Among other things, LD 1417 "prohibits a business entity, defined as a firm, partnership, corporation, incorporated association or other organization other than a labor organization, whether organized as a for-profit or a nonprofit entity, from making contributions to a candidate or leadership political action committee".

Corporate influence and dark money in politics has helped to create a political system that caters to corporations with financial resources as opposed to its citizens. As a small non-profit that works to make sure that all people are protected from toxic chemicals, we have seen first-hand how influence from large corporations with deep pockets has negatively influenced policies that impact the health and safety of both people and the environment. We believe it is important to take steps to help limit the influence of money in politics and return the power to where it belongs, to the people.

Defend Our Health is a non-profit and would therefore be subject to this law, just as any other corporation or non-profit. We believe that it's appropriate to limit contributions and create a more transparent political system. This bill does not limit the ability of owners, employees, and shareholders or any individual from participating politically. It simply creates a more equitable, transparent system to help level the playing field.

Therefore, Defend Our Health urges you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1417.

Thank you for your time