

Chair Hoyle and members of the House Rules Committee, HJM 4 establishes that corporations are not people and money is not speech. Supreme Court decisions in 2012 (Citizens United v FEC) and last year (McCutcheon v FEC) dim the lights on democracy. When legislators must prioritize fund raising over governance, citizens are left in the dust. They can't compete with big money in politics when supporting good candidates. Constituents of elected leaders are increasingly defined by how much they can raise money for political campaigns.

HJM2 should be amended, changing page 1, lines 13 and 14 from "those who spend excessively in elections, through campaigns or third - party groups" to "those who spend excessively to influence governmental or political decisions. "

Consider the Super PAC.

Super PACs were created in the wake of Citizens United. They are supposed to be transparent political committees, publicly disclosing who funds them. As the Center for Public Integrity notes in an article published today, "Spending is speech, and is therefore protected by the Constitution — even if the speaker is a corporation."

The article questions, "Will limited liability companies be the next frontier of 'dark money'?" Of the top ten LLCs that have pumped at least \$33 million into SuperPACs since 2010, over \$21 million was collected by conservative groups and ~\$6 million by liberal groups. These LLCs could replace "social welfare" nonprofits, should the IRS implement new rules that would make them be less politically active.

Money darkens the campaign process--all the more so when the money is dark. Democracy will wither if deep-pocketed corporations and billionaires choose the leaders who run America.

Please support these two bills.

Kris Alman