

Chair Rep Warner, Vice-Chairs Rep Drazan, Rep Holvey, and members of the committee:

I urge your support of HB 3343. I believe it will contribute to decreasing the corrupting influence of money, increase and diversify participation in democracy, increase transparency, and build public trust through the following:

It does not allow unlimited contributions on local or state level which would be another backdoor to funnel money. Local governments can have lower campaign limits for flexibility, but can not be unlimited as in HB 2680. The lower caps as compared to HB 2680 as well as small donors committee would help those who historically have lacked a voice run for office and overall increase participation in the democratic process. The caps attempt to balance what is needed to run competitive campaigns and what is within reach of the average citizen with small donor committee also mitigating. It provides allowance for increased contributions limits for non-incumbents to help level the playing field against incumbents. It does not include the language ("persons", linkage of "purpose" with contributions) in HB 2680 that enables interpretation to result in unlimited contributions making caps illusory. Political committees are better defined eliminating associated potential loopholes. Transparency is improved in that anonymous donors for expenditures are not allowed. It makes disclosure more comprehensible with definition of "prominently disclose". It strengthens enforcement by giving OR electors a role in enforcement of the caps vs being completely dependent on partisan gov officials. The penalty amounts are high enough to serve as a deterrent.

In addition, I would like to ask for consideration of reasonable exceptions to disclosure rules be included given that there is evidence that past disclosures have exposed BIPOC donors to retaliation. Exceptions would need to be well-defined to prevent exploitation. Also there needs to be strong anti-coordination rules and enforcement to ensure independent expenditures are in fact independent.

Given unlimited independent expenditures, campaign contribution limits should be part of a package to include a small donor matching system as in HB2921 as well as independent expenditure disclosure to maximize effectiveness.

Thank you for your attention,
Debrah Wong