

From: Alex Koplin

Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:21 AM

To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>; Jonathan Kreiss-Tompkins <representative.jonathan.kreiss-tompkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Calvin Schrage <Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov>; Erik Gunderson <Erik.Gunderson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: My two cents on HB 234 and 245

Good morning House State Affairs, Representative Schrage and Representative Josephson,

I am writing today as a private citizen in regard to HB 234 and 245. I have looked at both bills and there are differences for limits for individuals and group donations. I would prefer to see Representative Schrage and Representative Josephson go into a backroom (My Chicago days) and hammer the details out and come up with a bill that they can co-sponsor together. We do need to move on any bills that deals with campaign limits, especially since the federal appeals court decision.

Campaign finance is a serious issue and we do need to address it. But once this bill passes the House, (finger crossed) the hurdles to get past the Senate seem pretty overwhelming. Senator Shower's was quoted in an ADN article on Jan 30th saying, "pretty tough to see something like that making it through this year with everything else that's going on."

To be honest, the whole idea of campaign finance with little concern about limits is just crazy. The amount of money spent on campaigns is over the top and getting worse. I would like to see campaign finance laws that would allow for more people to enter races, have total limits, and be subsidized by the government, so the idea of quid pro quo is not a factor.

I watched the presentation of these bills last week, and appreciate the time the two Representatives, their aides and the committee are working towards making something happen-but if we are serious about campaign finance there needs to be a complete overhaul of the system that would allow for more people to have confidence in a system where there is currently very little.

Sincerely,

Alex Koplin

Homer, Alaska

From: Madeleine Grant

Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 10:26 AM

To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 234 & 245: we need limits on donations!

Hello hard working legislators-

Most Alaskans think there is too much money on politics & that it is not good. Also usually means excess outside influence in Alaskan issue Please support campaign/political donation limits (yes, should be allowing for inflation though) Thanks Madeleine Grant

From: Kari Fjällström
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 12:19 AM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Subject: I support HB234 and HB245

Please vote for HB234 and HB245!

Alaska needs a law limiting campaign expenditures to reduce/avoid the risk of corruption and keep campaign support within the reach of the average voter. No one should be able to overwhelm a candidate with a wealth of money.

Kari Fjällström


Anchorage, Ak

From: Cami Dalton
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 6:33 PM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Subject: campaign finance reform

Dear House Committe Members:

I am not able to provide in person testimony, but I am very very concerned for democracy in our state. Without action to replace Campaign Finance laws, elections in Alaska will become even more open to the corrupting influence of outside special interest groups and dark money. Why would anyone who believes and cares about democracy want that?

Alaska desperately needs a law limiting campaign expenditures. Corruption via financial contributions has proved to be a problem. The average voter should be empowered to support a candidate and not feel as though their small donation makes no difference. Without a new law, just the opposite will happen. What is just about a handful of wealthy donations overwhelming even one candidate?

There is too much money in politics and it turns people off. It keeps good people away from the polls. It is unfair and only breeds corruption.

Please create new and fair campaign finance laws.
Thank you for your open mind and willingness to preserve our fragile democracy.

Cami Dalton
Anchorage

From: Debra Reed
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 5:51 PM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Subject: Campaign Finance - Get \$ out of Politics!

Good Afternoon,

Alaskans overwhelmingly support keeping big money out of Alaska politics.

Alaskans should be able to assess candidates on their character and merits, and not be influenced by slick, expensive campaigns funded by enormous sums of outside, dark money.

I'm writing in support of HB234 and HB245. I urge your support!

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Respectfully,
Debra Reed

From: Therese Lewandowski
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 2:13 PM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB's 234 & 245

Hello House State Affairs Committee,

You are having a hearing tomorrow on these two very important campaign finance bills that would set limits on the amount individuals and PACs can give to a candidate.

I am in favor of both bills. Campaign financing needs to be reigned in. It is as if a main criteria for a candidate getting the vote is the amount of money they take in. Setting these very reasonable limits shows the voters that candidates cannot be bought, they must earn the vote on their merit.

Both bills are similar, I believe. But I would like to see limits put down on outside-of-state contributions as HB 245 includes, as that would keep big corporate and party interests from influencing candidates. If it is true that Alaskans do not like outside interests governing the state then I would think all voters would want this.

Please affirm and do what you can to pass these bills forward.

Thank you,
Therese Lewandowski