

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 6335: An Act Concerning Revisions to Campaign Finance Laws.**

**Liam B. Sweeney  
Committee on Government Administration and Elections  
February 14, 2011**

Senator Slossberg and Representative Morin and respected members of the Government Administration and Elections committee:

My name is Liam Sweeney and I am the President of the Greater Hartford Young Democrats which is a registered political action committee here in Connecticut. Our organization is a local chapter of the statewide organization the Connecticut Young Democrats which in turn is part of national organization, the Young Democrats of America. Our organizations strives to involve young people in the political process by encouraging them to run for office, helping them achieve elected positions and advocating for issues that are important to young people.

The Connecticut Young Democrats support an amendment to H.B. 6335 that addresses the definition of what defines a "organizational expense." Our organizations utilizes many free social mediums like "Facebook" and free email servers such as Gmail owned by Google, to organize our members and notify them of events such as canvasses or meet and greets with candidates. We feel that that informing and organizing our members through these mediums should not qualify as a "organizational expense" since there is none.

The Connecticut Young Democrats and all of its local chapters are currently prohibited from making any kind of "organizational expenditures" towards any candidate participating in Connecticut's Citizen Election Program. As the law is currently written, this would prohibit our organization from holding events for candidates on campuses, sending emails through free email servers, creating events or sending a messages through Facebook. all of which would not cost any money to our organization or a candidate. \_

The Connecticut Young Democrats would also support an amendment of making both the Connecticut Young Democrats and Connecticut Young Republicans and their local chapters "Party Committees." which would allow for us to make organizational expenses. The Connecticut Young Democrats and all of its local chapters support House Bill 6335 as measure to continue to make the Citizens Elections Program a prevailing and a state-of-the-art-program.

On behalf of my organization the Greater Hartford Young Democrats and the Connecticut Young Democrats I would like to thank the Chairs, Senator Slossberg and Representative Morin and the rest of the Government Administration and Elections committee for their time and consideration.