

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



J. BRENDAN SHARKEY
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

March 27, 2015

Chairman Jutila, Chairman Cassano, Ranking Members McLachlan and Smith, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I would like to offer the following suggested change to SB 1126 AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS.

Since the advent of the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, this Committee has struggled to restore what was once the pinnacle of clean and transparent elections in this country. While this has no doubt been challenging, this legislature has sought corrective measures each year and among them is SB 1126.

I would like to express my support for some of the measures contained in the bill, notably improved transparency for the coordination and execution of independent expenditures. However, there is a verifiable need to limit the amount of money that party committees are allowed to spend on individual candidates. Allowing these committees to spend an infinite amount of money on behalf of candidates is both irresponsible and further eviscerates our model Citizens' Election Program.

While I appreciate the Committee's caution in light of the Court's decision, there is certainly a responsible balance to be struck. I urge this Committee to include a cap on the amount that any party committee can spend on an individual candidate at 25% of their CEP grant.

Respectfully,


J. Brendan Sharkey
Speaker of the House of Representatives