



Legislative Testimony
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**Written Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 1043,
An Act Concerning the State Elections Enforcement Commission and
Regulation of Dark Money, and House Bill 7329, An Act Concerning Dark
Money and Disclosure of Foreign Political Spending and of
Political Advertising on Social Media**

Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is David McGuire, and I am executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony regarding Senate Bill 1043, An Act Concerning the State Elections Enforcement Commission and Regulation of Dark Money, and House Bill 7329, An Act Concerning Dark Money and Disclosure of Foreign Political Spending and of Political Advertising on Social Media.

As an organization that fights to protect the First Amendment rights of all people, the ACLU-CT has concerns about campaign finance proposals that go too far. Although the ACLU-CT agrees with the importance of election transparency, one unfortunate consequence of campaign finance reform has been the infringement of rights to freedom of speech and association. Though the goal of these bills is clearly to ensure that so-called “dark money” does not enter our elections, the ACLU-CT fears a slippery slope when regulating campaign finance and disclosure of funding. Depending on what types of entities these requirements reach, the bills may limit debate and discussion of public policy and pose significant threats to certain organizations and their donors.

However, meaningful reform of campaign finance is possible without compromising the rights guaranteed to all people by the U.S. Constitution. We will continue to monitor these bills and urge the committee to carefully weigh election transparency with First Amendment principles when reviewing Senate Bill 1043 and House Bill 7329.