



August 13, 2018

Honorable Chair Germond and Commissioners
Fair Political Practices Commission
1102 Q Street, Suite 3000,
Sacramento CA 95811

**RE: Assembly Bill 84, Political Reform Act of 1974: political party committee disclosures
OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Germond and Commissioners:

MOVI, Money Out Voters In could not possibly be more opposed to the slap in the face to democracy advocates and the voters of California that is AB 84.

In 2016, when Californians passed *Prop 59, The Overturn Citizens United Act*, we exercised our California constitutionally guaranteed right to “instruct [our] representatives” “to use all of their constitutional authority... to allow the full regulation or limitation of campaign contributions and spending.”

Surely the voters did not instruct the legislature to create four new avenues for unlimited money from individuals, corporations, unions and foreign influenced corporations to flood into our already money-soaked political process. As amended, AB 84, shamefully, is a bi-partisan effort to defy the clearly expressed direction of California voters.

AB 84 also conflicts absolutely with the past actions the California Legislature has taken to combat the democracy crushing scourge of ever escalating money in politics since the disastrous *Citizens United* ruling in 2010.

Not only did the legislature pass *The Overturn Citizens United Act* twice, SB 1272 (Lieu) 2014 and SB 254 (Allen) 2016, but CA Legislature defended the Act’s right to appear on the ballot before the California Supreme Court when SB 1272/ Prop 49 was removed from the ballot by the state’s High Court.

The CA Legislature was an early objector to the creation of Super-PACS. The legislature passed AJR 22 (Weickowski, Allen, M.) in 2012 calling on the Congress to “overturn” *Citizens United*, and in 2014, also passed AJR 1 (Gatto) which called for an Article V convention to “overturn” *Citizens United*.

The legislature's reversal of its long standing position and positive actions regarding campaign finance reforms is mystifying and troubling.

Lastly, and critically, AB 84 ignores the clear evidence that establishing these additional avenues for big money has been shown to undermine the public's trust in elected officials by creating corruption or the appearance of corruption. See, e.g. *Lieu v. Federal Election Commission*.
<https://freespeechforpeople.org/lieu-v-federal-election-commission/>

The passage of this bill will do long term harm to Californians seeking to augment the voices and concerns of the marginalized, the under-represented and the disenfranchised. It will further the cause of those who benefit from voter disengagement and miseducation.

We urge you to oppose AB 84 and to spare Californians the inevitable, deleterious results this legislation would produce.

Sincerely,

Michele Sutter
MOVI, Money Out Voters IN
Director & Co-Founder