

# CAMPAIGN FINANCING

## **Ban all group political donations!**

We have reached a point in our democratic process where politicians no longer pay much attention to the opinions of individual voters. Candidates have learned that these opinions can be swayed by massive advertising campaigns. The candidate with the biggest and most effective campaign wins—it's that simple.

Furthermore, such campaigns cost millions of dollars, and that kind of money can no longer be raised from the contributions of individual voters. It must come from corporations, unions, and “political action committees”. Against the buying power of such entities, the voice of the individual is lost.

This is tragic, because it means that we no longer have a democracy where the opinions of the majority influence the government. Instead, we have a plutocracy where those with money or the control of money influence political decisions disproportionately to their numbers. Today, in reality, a very small number of people who control the political donation purse-strings effectively decide what kind of government we will have.

Congress should pass and the President sign a law prohibiting political contributions from any corporation, company, association, union, partnership, or any other grouping of people. Only individuals would be able to make political contributions.

They could donate as much money as they wished—but it would be their money, and not somebody else's. People would no longer be required to financially support candidates or positions they oppose simply because the directors of some group of which they are a member have decided to do so.

Freedom of speech would not be abridged in any way, since every citizen and resident of this country who is legally entitled to do so could still speak out to the limit of their abilities and pocketbook.

After all, although made up of real people, political action committees and other such entities are not *in themselves* real people. Why should they have any say in how our country is run?

Alas, I know that such a bill would never make it out of committee, let alone be passed or signed into law. Few of today's politicians have the moral courage or ethical backbone to voluntarily limit their own campaign contributions.

It's a nice thought, however; and I can dream, can't I?

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Last edited in January of 2010