

Dear Senators and Representatives,

As newly-elected members of Congress who ran on platforms of addressing unchecked money in politics, we write to urge you to take a stand for good governance by opposing the inclusion of any campaign finance riders in Fiscal Year 2017 funding measures. We look forward to joining you in Washington, D.C. in January, and sincerely hope that we may begin the 115th Congress with bipartisan agreement on this fundamental issue.

Specifically, we urge you to reject appropriations riders that would prevent critical political spending transparency by stopping the SEC from finalizing rules pertaining to the disclosure of political spending and halting the IRS from creating much needed rules providing guidance to 501(c)(4) “social welfare” organizations on the scope of permissible political activities.

As you may know, last year these two riders were passed as part of the Omnibus Appropriations package. We must ensure that we begin a new congress and administration with unshackled agencies in the pursuit of political disclosure.

The SEC rule would require publicly traded companies to disclose their political spending to shareholders, something in which shareholders have demonstrated significant interest. The SEC has received more than 1.2 million comments from investors and the general public expressing support for the proposed disclosure rule, the most in the agency’s history.

The IRS rulemaking would provide clearer guidance for nonprofit organizations about what constitutes political activity and as a result would result in greater transparency in the political spending of those non-profit organizations trying to game the system, which have in many cases become conduits to funnel enormous sums of untraceable money to influence elections. A vast majority of Americans from across the political spectrum believe that there is too much outside money in politics and support measures for greater transparency.

Unaccountable, secret money in elections has not only undermined people’s faith in our democracy, it has prevented our nation’s highest legislative body from fully addressing some of the most critical issues facing the country. The American people have a right to know who is working to influence our elections, and in our campaign platforms we pledged to do our part to increase transparency and level the democratic playing field.

In two short months we will be sworn in to serve the American people alongside you. We hope to find bipartisan common ground on this issue that is central to the integrity of our democracy.

Sincerely,

Anthony Brown, Representative-elect: MD-04  
Salud Carbajal, Representative-elect: CA-24  
Charlie Crist, Representative-elect: FL-13  
Ruben Kihuen, Representative-elect: NV-10  
Stephanie Murphy, Representative-elect: FL-07

Tom O'Halleran, Representative-elect: AZ-01  
Jamie Raskin, Representative-elect: MD-08  
Brad Schneider, Representative-elect: IL-10  
Carol Shea-Porter, Representative-elect: NH-01

115<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States