

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020



**Nathan H. Manning**  
State Senator  
13<sup>th</sup> Ohio District

Senate Bill 347  
Sponsor Testimony

---

Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 347.

Ten years ago, during the 128<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, then-Senator Jon Husted carried legislation that sought to modernize Ohio's campaign finance laws by bringing us into compliance with federal law. Senator Husted's Senate Bill 240 passed the Ohio Senate with bipartisan support, but failed to progress through the House.

Since the landmark Citizens United Supreme Court decision in 2010, which generally eliminated prohibitions against corporations and labor unions from making independent expenditures and electioneering communications, Ohio has yet to make any changes to state law in response. Senate Bill 347 allows these expenditures and communications by businesses and unions, and specifies that they will be regulated in the same manner as other entities.

The bill does the following:

- Requires businesses and unions to identify the source of any amount received during filing period exceeding \$5,000 not received in ordinary course of business.
- Prohibits foreign corporations (or a foreign national) from making these types of political communications, and adds a fine for violation equal to three times the amount expended.
- Requires reporting of independent expenditures of \$500+ (amount previously undefined).
- Specifies that independent expenditures of \$10,000+ made between filing deadline & general election be classified as an "electioneering communication" & reported as such (report within 24 hours & weekly reports thereafter if any more is spent- according to existing law).
- Increases threshold for all ind. exp. to include a disclaimer that it was not produced by the campaign to \$500 (previously \$100).
- Eliminates requirement that electioneering communications made during 30 days prior to election be reported as an expenditure.
- Revise definition of PAC to apply only when an entity has \$2,500+ in treasury & makes contributions/expenditures of \$1,000+ annually. Eliminate exception for "political clubs."

Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony, and I'd be happy to take questions.