



# State Senator **TERESA FEDOR**

*Serving Ohio's 11th State Senate District*

## **Sponsor Testimony – S.C.R. No 17**

### **Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

**September 22, 2020**

Chair Coley and members of the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 17. In an effort to halt foreign interference and dark money influence in our elections, this resolution asks Congress to pass legislation requiring corporations and labor organizations that make political expenditures to disclose the identities of their donors.

In its *Citizens United v. The Federal Election Commission* decision in 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a federal law prohibiting corporations and labor organizations from making independent expenditures concerning election campaigns. Over the last ten years, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, these entities have spent approximately \$1 billion in dark money to influence the outcomes of federal elections. Allowing unidentified donors to use dark money to make unlimited independent expenditures for political purposes is not responsible government.

S.C.R. 17 is an effort to get Congress to ensure transparency and accountability in federal election campaigns. We must establish as many checks and balances as possible to protect the integrity of the democratic process and maintain the trust of our constituency. By requiring corporations and other organizations to disclose the sources of all contributions they use to make political expenditures, as well as the recipients of all political contributions, and all independent expenditures — we can ensure transparency and stop foreign money from interfering in our election process.

We have all seen the consequences of unchecked campaign contributions in recent events at both the federal and state level. From confirmed Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election to the allegations that shrouded our former speaker Householder. It is clear that without changes at the federal and state level, dark money will continue to erode public trust and the legitimacy of our democracy.

Voters in Ohio need to know that they can trust the elected officials that represent them, and the processes by which those officials get elected in the first place.

At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.