Ohio General Assembly

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Committees Technology & Innovation, Chair Commerce and Labor Insurance Ways and Means

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HB 13 Sponsor Testimony

Good morning Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chairwoman White, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of House Government Oversight. Thank you for hearing HB 13, to modify campaign finance law.

HB 13 includes several components, it updates corporate and labor organization spending, expands and clarifies the definitions of political contributing entities, strengthens spending and fundraising reporting standards, acknowledges the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, and makes technical changes.

There is far more room for transparency in Ohio's elections. Over the past few election cycles we have seen an influx in federal PAC involvement in many if not all state and local elections, and an increase in expenditures. To combat this, and allow our citizens to know who has a hand in their elections and ballot initiatives, this bill requires 501c4s engaged in state elections to report all of their expenditures in the same manner as other Political Contributing Entities (PCEs) as existing law requires with respect to permitted ballot issue expenditures by those entities.

Additionally, this bill makes clear that all PCEs must comply with the continuing law that requires entities that engage in political advertising to report the expenditure and to identify themselves in the advertisement as the funding source, in the same manner as PACs and other political entities currently must do. 501c4's operating on the state level will continue to report to the secretary of state, while Federal PACs operating in Ohio for state and local elections will report in a similar manner to secretary of state.

I'd would like to express my gratitude to my joint sponsor, and esteemed colleague Representative Grendell, for her work on this legislation. When I saw that our offices had a similar concept for legislation to this effect I knew she would be an excellent partner to bring positive change to the state. Thank you Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chairwoman White, Ranking Member Sweeney, and Members of House Government Oversight. Representative Grendell and I would be happy to take any questions.