

March 9, 2025

Bill: HB2054

Opponent Written-only Testimony for hearing 3/11/2025

Conferee: Dale Enyart

Representing: Self

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I am providing written-only opponent testimony for HB 2054. I am deeply troubled with what this bill would potentially allow. While I understand the Supreme Court's ruling equating political contributions to free speech, I believe we should examine what this bill would actually mean for individual Kansans contributions and how the unlimited funds from PACs would further marginalize the meager limits set for individuals. The potential for PAC donations to political party committees at levels unrestricted will give party elites control and power to squelch the voices of constituents. That is not protecting free speech.

The proposed change striking section K.S.A. 25-4153(d) seems to remove the dollar amount restrictions of donations from Political Action Committees (PAC) to political party committees. If we remove the \$5,000 limit currently in place and allow essentially unlimited monies to be injected from PACs with unknown donors, what would we create? In my estimation, we would effectively be selling our elections to the highest bidder. We do ***NOT need more dark money in the election process!*** I for one, believe we already allow too much money from PACs representing special interest groups and lobbyists to infect and affect our political representation thereby degrading and stifling the voices of ***We The People***.

We simply ***shouldn't allow MORE money in politics***. Do you want more mailers in your mailbox? Do you want more political phone calls? Do you want more political commercials? Do you want more political text messages and emails? I realize that I am asking politicians to limit possible campaign money but think about what the people that ***elected you*** to represent them...what would they want?

I ask you to oppose HB 2054.

Thank you,

Dale Enyart

