

March 30, 2016

Dear Senator:

Given the unlikelihood that congressional leadership will allow floor votes on numerous bills that would strengthen our democracy in the 114th Congress, Common Cause is planning to issue a “Democracy Scorecard” later this year based on cosponsorship of the 12 bills below. We urge you to cosponsor these bills, all of which will amplify the voices of everyday Americans and ensure that our elected leaders are more responsive to the public.

- [S 214](#), Shareholder Protection Act (Sen. Menendez, 12 cosponsors)
- [S 229](#), DISCLOSE Act (Sen. Whitehouse, 42 cosponsors)
- [S 366](#), Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act (Sen. Tester, 40 cosponsors)
- [S. 1176](#), EMPOWER Act (Sen. Udall, 1 cosponsor)
- [S. 1538](#), Fair Elections Now Act (Sen. Durbin, 23 cosponsors)
- [S.J. Res. 5](#), Democracy for All Amendment (Sen. Udall, 39 cosponsors)
- [S. 772](#), Democracy Restoration Act (Senator Cardin, 10 cosponsors)
- [S. 1088](#), Voter Registration Modernization Act (Sen. Gillibrand, 5 cosponsors)
- [S. 1139](#), Same Day Registration Act (Sen. Klobuchar, 1 cosponsor)
- [S. 1659](#), Voting Rights Advancement Act (Sen. Leahy, 42 cosponsors)
- [S. 2483](#), Fairness and Independence in Redistricting (FAIR) Act (Sen. Udall, 6 cosponsors)
- [S. 1072](#), Supreme Court Ethics Act (Sen. Murphy, 5 cosponsors)

For more than 45 years, Common Cause has worked to hold power accountable. With more than 425,000 supporters and 35 state offices across the country, we have helped pass bills at the federal, state, and local level that:

- Reduce the role of big money special interests;
- Ensure that all eligible voters can have their voices heard at the ballot box;
- End partisan gerrymandering by supporting independent redistricting commissions; and
- Create stronger ethics rules for elected officials and public servants.

While these bills will not solve all of our democracy’s problems, supporting this legislation would significantly empower the voices of all Americans, the vast majority of whom cannot start a Super PAC, organize a fundraiser, or hire a lobbyist. It is clear voters in both parties are frustrated: public opinion polls indicate upwards of 70-80 percent of Republicans, Democrats, and independents agree our political system is out of balance and are prioritizing a debate about solutions to these problems in this elections cycle. Thank you for cosponsoring these 12 bills and for your work to fulfill the call of ensuring that government will always be “of, by, and for” the people.

Sincerely,

Miles Rapoport
President
Common Cause