

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2015

RE: Presidential Library Donation Reform Act, H.R. 1069

Dear Speaker Boehner and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

We the undersigned organizations are writing to express our support for the Presidential Library Donation Reform Act, H.R. 1069, and urge you to bring it to the floor for a vote at the earliest opportunity. The bipartisan legislation was favorably reported by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on March 25, 2015. The Presidential Library Donation Reform Act would introduce a measure of transparency to fundraising for presidential libraries.

H.R. 1069 requires fundraising organizations to submit quarterly reports on entities that have contributed above a certain threshold towards a presidential library. The bill also requires that the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) make the reports available in a searchable, sortable, downloadable database as soon as they are received.

Under the current opaque system, presidents raise funds privately to establish their presidential libraries. These efforts, which often begin long before they leave office, are unregulated and undisclosed, creating opportunities for, or the appearance of, influence-peddling. Improved transparency would help reduce the appearance of impropriety and help deter inappropriate behavior.

A bipartisan companion measure in the Senate, S. 558, was favorably reported by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on March 4, 2015. The legislation also was favorably received by the House in previous years, including passing the House of Representatives in the 110th Congress only to run out of time after receiving favorable approval by the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further. Please contact Daniel Schuman, Policy Director at Demand Progress at daniel@demandprogress.org or 202-577-6100; or Meredith McGehee, Policy Director at the Campaign Legal Center at MMcGehee@campaignlegalcenter.org.

Sincerely,

Campaign Legal Center
Center for Media and Democracy
Center for Responsive Politics
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in
Washington (CREW)
Common Cause
Demand Progress
Government Accountability Institute

Government Accountability Project
iSolon.org
National Legal and Policy Center
OpenTheGovernment.org
Public Citizen
Rootstrikers
Society of Professional Journalists
Sunlight Foundation