

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

September 15, 2015

**RE: Presidential Library Donation Reform Act, S. 558**

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Reid:

We the undersigned organizations are writing to express our support for the Presidential Library Donation Reform Act, S. 558, and urge it be scheduled for floor consideration at the earliest opportunity. The bipartisan legislation was favorably reported by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on March 4, 2015. The Presidential Library Donation Reform Act would introduce a measure of transparency to fundraising for presidential libraries.

S. 558 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 House, H.R. 1069, was favorably reported by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on March 25, 2015. In prior congresses, similar legislation has been favorably reported by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and passed by the House of Representatives.

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](mailto:daniel@demandprogress.org) or 202-577-6100; or Meredith McGehee, Policy Director at the Campaign Legal Center at [MMcGehee@campaignlegalcenter.org](mailto: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