



Common Cause New Mexico is working with Senator Peter Wirth (D-Santa Fe) to pass a critical piece of legislation to get the money out of New Mexico politics, and we would love your support!

Disclosure of political expenditures

1. Common Cause New Mexico has been working with Senator Peter Wirth to **pass a comprehensive overhaul of the Campaign Reporting Act.**
2. **The bill passed the Senate unanimously in 2012 and 2013!**
3. This bill reflects the changing atmosphere of **today's political climate where the flood of unregulated PAC money is in every election**, from local to federal.
4. The need for heightened transparency has never been more urgent, as **millions of dollars from anonymous sources flood into elections around the country.**
5. Disclosure allows us to find out **who is contributing** to our candidates, who is donating to PACs involved in NM races and where the money comes from to fund these campaigns.
6. We **cannot limit contributions to independent expenditure committees** like those limits that are imposed on political committees, because many recent **court decisions**, including a decision of the U.S. district court in New Mexico invalidating part of the CRA, have held that contributions to such independent groups cannot constitutionally be limited. The bill would bring the CRA into compliance with these rulings.
7. However the **bill would prohibit independent expenditure committees from engaging in certain activities characteristic of political committees, including coordinated expenditures and contributions to candidates or political committees.**

Purposes; two principal purposes:

1. ***To restore the enforceability of the Campaign Reporting Act (CRA).*** Since the CRA was enacted, the courts have developed an extensive body of restrictions on the authority of governments to regulate campaign speech. Under these rules, several key provisions of the CRA have recently been invalidated by the courts, including most of the Act's reporting requirement for PAC's and other independent groups. This bill would rewrite the CRA to conform to current constitutional rules.
2. ***To adapt the CRA to modern methods of campaigning.*** When the CRA was enacted, candidates and political parties were virtually the only campaign participants. There are now numerous national and local independent groups participating in state elections in a variety of ways, ranging from campaign ads coordinated with candidates to an occasional ad mentioning a public official who is running for reelection. The bill would expand the CRA to cover all these kinds of campaign activities in a constitutionally permissible way.

Common Cause New Mexico is dedicated to restoring the core values of American democracy, reinventing an open, honest and accountable government that serves the public interest, and empowering ordinary people to make their voices heard in the political process.

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