

June 16, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

The Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*, which allows unlimited independent spending by corporations in support of or opposition to political candidates, has derailed many of the most important campaign finance reform reforms enacted over the past several decades. Many organizations committed to the preservation of fundamental principles of American democracy agreed with President Obama when he used the occasion of the State of the Union address to call on Congress to write legislation that would overturn the most egregious ramifications of the *Citizens United* decision.

We strongly believe that the *Citizens United* decision poses a threat to the integrity of the electoral process and we support legislation that provides for effective disclosure, while at the same time protecting free and independent speech and promoting active participation in elections by individuals and organizations.

However, we must respectfully express our profound opposition to the effort to create an exemption from the disclosure requirements for large, powerful organizations, which, given the amendment's language, in reality only applies to one entity, the National Rifle Association.

It is inappropriate and inequitable to create a two-tiered system of campaign finance laws and First Amendment protections, one for the most powerful and influential and another for everyone else. There is no legitimate justification for privileging the speech of one entity over another, or of reducing the burdens of compliance for the biggest organization yet retaining them for the smallest.

We urge you in the strongest possible terms to work with the sponsors to remove the offending language and restore the integrity of the bill so we can continue to participate in efforts to craft legislation that achieves the goal we all share to undo the damage of *Citizens United* and restore the integrity of our democratic system. In its current form, however, we have no choice but to oppose the passage of the DISCLOSE Act.

Respectfully,

Alliance for Justice
League of Conservation Voters
Sierra Club
American Association of Suicidology
Arizona Bridge to Independent Living
Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
Campaign for Community Change
Ceasefire Oregon
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Change Congress

Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
Consumer Action
CREDO Action
DC For Democracy
Defending Dissent Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund
Education Voters of America
Equal Justice Society
Friends of the Earth
Fuse Washington
Global Justice Ministry
GunFreeKids.Org
Keystone Progress
Legal Momentum
Media Matters Action Network
Natural Resources Defense Council
National Consumers League
New Yorkers Against Gun Violence
New York Public Interest Research Group
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence
Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Progress Florida
Progress Michigan
Progress Now
Progress Now Colorado
Progress Ohio
Progressive Future
Protest Easy Guns
Public Advocates Inc.
Scott County Housing Council
States United to Prevent Gun Violence
Students for Gun Free Schools
Traction Action Fund
United Church of Christ
USAction
Violence Policy Center
Virginia Center for Public Safety
Wilco Justice Alliance
Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort
Women Against Gun Violence
Women of Reform Judaism