



**BILL: HB0721**

**BILL TITLE: Election Law - Political Clubs**

**BILL SPONSOR: Delegate Hornberger**

**COMMITTEE: Ways and Means**

**POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

**HEARING DATE: February 22, 2022**

**TESTIMONY ON HB0721**

Cristi Demnowicz, Chair  
Represent Maryland

Represent Maryland agrees with the concept of this bill: that all organized entities who are doing political work, and are actively **fundraising** for their internal/administrative use or for candidates/ballot issue, should be required to file campaign finance reports. This will increase transparency in the money that influences politics and hopefully increase public faith in our political processes.

We appreciate that this year's bill includes a definition of Political Club, however as written, any two people who make a contribution to the same candidate could technically be considered a political club. We believe the definition must be clarified even further, stating any two or more people who "**COORDINATE TO pay dues or make contributions to an entity for the purpose of participating in a political matter**" are considered a Political Club.

Without this clarification we fear that this law could be used against grassroots activists and ask the committee to work with Delegate Hornberger to further define the term 'Political Club' before finding the amended bill favorable and moving it to the House floor.

Sincerely,  
Cristi Demnowicz, Chair  
Represent Maryland  
Maryland Voter-LD07

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Represent Maryland is a grassroots anti-corruption group of citizen advocates that #FightForDemocracy in Maryland. Our democracy solutions include: Public Election Funds, Independent Redistricting, Special Elections, Ranked Choice Voting, Increased Ethics and Transparency, and Increased Voter Participation. Learn more about our work at [www.RepresentMaryland.org](http://www.RepresentMaryland.org)

Authorized by Represent Maryland PAC, T. Miller, Treasurer