

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 17, 2005

Dear Democratic Colleague:

We are writing to urge you to oppose HR 1316, which, if enacted, will enable wealthy individuals and interests to pour unlimited amounts of hard money into federal elections. At a time when Congress is under intense pressure to strengthen its ethics system to minimize the influence of special interests on its legislative work, it should not lift the aggregate contribution limits.

H.R. 1316 would reverse the significant progress made since 2002 to limit the potentially corrosive influence of money on the political process by dismantling the current \$101,400 aggregate limit on the amount of hard money contributions an individual can make to federal parties and congressional candidates in a two-year election cycle. The effect would be to suppress the political voice of people of modest means while magnifying the influence of wealthy contributors who, without the current limit, would be free to direct their wealth to a vast range of interests they support.

Limiting total campaign giving has been a cornerstone of fair and honest campaigns for a generation, and one of the most effective ways to prevent corruption and the appearance of corruption in our political process. H.R. 1316 is a direct assault on this principle that must not become law.

Democrats have stood proudly as the party of reform. We must continue to do so. We urge you to oppose HR 1316.

Sincerely,



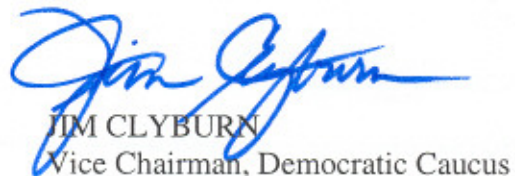
NANCY PELOSI
Democratic Leader



STENY HOYER
Democratic Whip



BOB MENENDEZ
Chairman, Democratic Caucus



JIM CLYBURN
Vice Chairman, Democratic Caucus