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March 5, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Public Citizen Statement for the Record in Support of H.R. 1

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of Public Citizen's 500,000 members and supporters, we write once again to express our wholehearted support for the sweeping ethics, campaign finance and voting rights reforms offered by the For the People Act (H.R. 1), which you are about to consider in a final House floor vote.

In November 2018, the American people went to the polls and resoundingly cast their ballots in support of candidates and officeholders committed to cleaning up corruption and holding government accountable. H.R. 1 embodies these principles and carries through with your promise to the nation to ensure that public officials work for the people.

This sweeping legislative package addresses three key buckets of reforms which are essential to make our government work effectively and fairly. The legislation provides:

- Comprehensive campaign finance reforms that would end dark money and reduce the alarming influence of special interest and corporate money over our elections.
- Desperately-needed governmental ethics reforms to slow the revolving door between public service and powerful business interests, and strengthening oversight and enforcement of ethics laws and rules.
- Voting and electoral reforms that would end gerrymandering and reaffirm the principle of one person, one vote.

Within each of these three buckets H.R. 1 proposes numerous critical reforms that get to the heart of the corruption problems and, if implemented, will go a long way toward restoring public confidence in our federal government. Each and every one of these proposals are significant remedies to what ails this nation and are endorsed by Public Citizen.

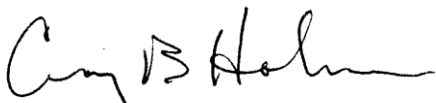
While there is some room for enhancing a few of the reforms offered by H.R. 1 – such as closing the “strategic consulting” loophole in the two-year revolving door restriction, providing the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) with the direct authority to issue administrative remedies for ethics violations, and require that presidential candidates release both their personal tax returns and the business tax returns of affiliated entities – Public Citizen strongly urges the committee

not to accept any amendments that weaken the measure.

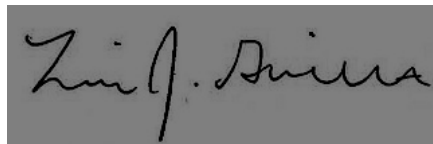
More importantly, and we cannot express our concern strongly enough, the House must reject any parliamentary maneuvers, such as a motion to recommit, that would delay or even end further consideration of this vital legislative package. A motion to recommit is nothing more than a disguised legislative effort to bring this important march toward key democracy reforms to an end.

Proudly, there have been no signs of retreat so far from the sweeping reforms of H.R. 1 by its congressional sponsors. Public Citizen applauds the hard work and bold initiative of these sponsors and of the supporting members, and strongly urge the 116th Congress to fulfill its promise.

Sincerely,



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