



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARYLAND, INC.



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 118 - Election Law – Persons Doing Public Business – Reporting by Governmental Entities

POSITION: Support

**BY: Barbara Schnackenberg & Nancy Soreng Co-Presidents LWVMD
Jennifer Bevan-Dangel Common Cause Maryland**

DATE: February 7, 2017

The League of Women Voters supports efforts to disclose information about who is making political contributions, in what amount, and to whom they are made.

In 2015 we supported **HB 769** which was signed by the governor and requires an officer of a company that is actively working on a government contract worth at least \$200,000 at the time they make a contribution of \$500 or more to a candidate (or incumbent office holder) to report the name of the candidate (and office they are seeking), or office holder and office they hold, and the amount of the contribution to Board of Elections. This allows the public to discern whether a candidate may have received a significant contribution from someone who may have a personal/financial interest in the decisions that the candidate may make as an elected official.

The legislation before you, HB 118 clarifies and streamlines the reporting process outlined in HB 769. We support this legislation, but urge you to not to make any additional amendments that could weaken the original intention of the law.

We urge a favorable report on HB 118.