

END CITIZENS UNITED — ACTION FUND —

February 5, 2020

The Honorable Steve Cohen
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Cohen,

Thank you for holding this hearing, “Citizens United at 10: The Consequences for Democracy and Potential Responses by Congress,” and your commitment to ending the dominance of big money in politics and creating a government that works for all of us.

Ten years ago last month, the Supreme Court released its disastrous *Citizens United v. FEC* decision that unleashed billions of dollars in special interest money into our elections, drowning out the voices of everyday Americans. It has skewed the policymaking process in Washington and blocked progress on so many issues Americans care about, from lowering the cost of prescription drugs to protecting the environment for our children’s future.

We fully support the bipartisan Democracy for All constitutional amendment (H.J. Res. 2) that would overturn the *Citizens United* decision by giving Congress and state legislatures the ability to set common sense limits on campaign fundraising and spending. Over the past decade, Congressman Ted Deutch (D-FL) has shown incredible leadership as he built support for measures to overturn *Citizens United*, and H.J. Res. 2 now has over 200 cosponsors. It would ensure our elections aren’t dominated by wealthy special interests and corporations with different priorities than most Americans.

While a constitutional amendment is critical to overturning the decision, we also support other remedies to blunt its impact. Last year, the House passed the For the People Act (H.R. 1), the most comprehensive package of anti-corruption reforms since Watergate. The bill will end the dominance of big money, protect and expand the right to vote, and ensure public officials are working in the public interest. The House also passed the SAFE Act (H.R. 2722) to shore up our voting systems, the SHIELD Act (H.R. 4617) to protect our elections from foreign interference, and the Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4) to ensure every eligible voter can cast their ballot free from discrimination.

All of these measures are critical to restoring the public's faith in their elected officials and ensuring our government is truly of, by, and for the people.

We applaud you, Chairman Cohen, Congressman Deutch, and the entire Democratic Caucus for your commitment to strengthening our democracy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiffany Muller".

Tiffany Muller
President, End Citizens United Action Fund