

If Members want candidates to have better reporting, better disclosure, more accountability, vote yes on this bill. It is the moment of truth. If Members think that a commission can report back recommendations for the rest of the details of campaign finance reform, vote yes on this bill. All four of these things are a step in the right direction.

The truth is, this bill is as fair to Republicans as it is to Democrats. The truth is that it affects any outside groups. It is the same for Wall Street or the labor unions, the same for the Christian Coalition or the ACLU. Everybody gets treated the same. Is that not fair? Is that not reasonable?

I say to my colleagues in the majority, this is the moment of truth. I ask Members, will they please put the public interest above their personal interest? Will they please put good government above their political party? Will Members please do the right thing for the American people, and send the signal that we have gone the distance on reform? Vote yes on Shays-Meehan.

Mr. EVANS. Madam Chairman, we are about to take a significant step forward in our efforts to restore public confidence in the American political system by passing the much needed reforms contained in the Shays-Meehan substitute.

Under the current system, many average, hard-working Americans feel their voices can't be heard above the call of special interests.

And who can blame them?

The roar of unaccountable advertising campaigns financed by unlimited soft money donations dominates our elections. Where the voters seek an informed discussion of the issues, they find only slogans and rhetoric.

Long after the need for reform became clear to the voters, its opponents resisted. Opponents of reform would have the American people believe that the only change necessary is increased disclosure, that unlimited sums of soft money pose no threat to the foundation of our democracy, the principle of one person, one vote.

Against the will of the voters, opponents of reform sought to deny consideration of Shays-Meehan. Having failed in their delaying action, opponents of reform then waged a war of attrition, attempting to amend Shays-Meehan to death. Once again, supporters of reform stood tall and these efforts were defeated.

Today, I am proud to join my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, to vote for the Shays-Meehan substitute, to pass meaningful campaign finance reform legislation, and to fulfill the commitment we have to the American people to ensure that their voices will be heard.

Mr. BAESLER. Madam Chairman, this has been a great debate over Shays-Meehan, and I am proud to have played a role in advancing the issue to this critical point. I only wish I weren't the only Kentucky Member who fought for this bill.

As we prepare to vote on Shays-Meehan/McCain-Feingold, it's important to remember Senator THOMPSON's investigation and report. The Thompson report identified the exact problems we're trying to reform here and the Shays-Meehan bill was offered up to solve these problems:

Shays-Meehan outlaws foreign money once and for all!

It outlaws Soft money—a loophole exploited by BOTH parties!

It outlaws fundraising on government property!

It reforms our campaign issue ad laws by reigning in sham issue ads!

In fact, it is the only bill that addresses all these problems which were documented after the 1996 election.

Now, although I'm the only Kentucky reformer in the House, maybe there have been some converts. The people of Kentucky care about this issue. I spoke at a campaign finance reform town meeting in Louisville about a month ago. Over 150 people packed a church on a Monday night, and stayed way beyond the scheduled time to express how badly they wanted to reform our out-of-control campaign finance system.

It would be an outrage to have spent \$8 million of Kentuckians and other Americans' tax money on these investigations and then not do anything to solve the problem. The problems of too much money in the political system are documented. We know what we need to do. The question now is whether we have the WILL to do it.

So I urge my Kentucky colleagues, I urge all my colleagues, to vote for Shays-Meehan.

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Madam Chairman, I rise in enthusiastic support of campaign finance reform legislation offered by my colleagues CHRIS SHAYS from my home state of Connecticut and MARTY MEEHAN from our neighboring state of Massachusetts. Further, I strongly commend Mr. SHAYS and Mr. MEEHAN for their bi-partisan effort to bring before the House the most sweeping changes to the way we finance political campaigns in over two decades.

For the past month, amendments have been offered to weaken the reform provisions in the Shays-Meehan legislation. Conscientious members from both sides of the aisle have joined repeatedly to vote down these destructive amendments.

This is a critical vote for the 105th Congress. Passage today of the Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill will begin to correct the abuses of our current system of financing political campaigns. But even more important, it will begin to restore the integrity of our election system and the confidence of the American people in their elected officials.

Four comprehensive campaign finance reform bills were passed by this House when the Democrats were in the majority, but never was enacted into law.

Let's finish the job that began a decade ago and vote for historic campaign finance reform. Vote yes on the Shays-Meehan bill.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of Shays-Meehan.

The bipartisan bill will:

Eliminate soft money contributions to political parties from individuals and organizations:

Require disclosure of contributions for issue ads that target specific candidates within 60 days of an election; and

Prohibit state parties from spending any soft money on activities that affect a federal race.

Most importantly, it would return the electoral system to the American people by limiting the amount of unregulated, unreported money in local politics.

Madam Chairman, every Member of this body has heard from constituents who have lost their faith in the system.

The American people no longer see an opportunity to participate in the system.

Each campaign cycle, we see an increase in the amount of money funneled into local races by outside special interest groups that have no ties to the community.

In 1996, the top two dozen outside groups spent \$150 million dollars on independent negative ads.

Such free, uncontrolled spending has perverted a fair, democratic system into a bidding war by unknown entities.

The American people are tired of unregulated negative attack ads and the Shays-Meehan substitute takes a major step forward in regulating undisclosed funds to launch negative attack ads.

The time has come to pass meaningful campaign finance reform.

The American people want it, editorial boards across the country have endorsed it; and in vote after vote last week it became clear that the majority of this House supports a clean, bipartisan bill that achieves real reform.

The CHAIRMAN. All time has expired.

Mr. THOMAS. Madam Chairman, I move that the committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) having assumed the chair, Mrs. EMERSON, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order: H.R. 3743, by the yeas and nays; and Senate Joint Resolution 54, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

IRAN NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION PREVENTION ACT OF 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3743, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3743, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were— yeas 405, nays 13, not voting 16, as follows: