

Snowe Troubled by U.S. Supreme Court Ruling to Remove Limits on Corporate and Union Spending in Political Campaigns

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Responding to this morning's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse the nation's federal campaign finance laws and allow corporations and labor unions to spend freely and directly on political campaigns, U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine) released the following statement:

“Over the past century, Congress has consistently understood and recognized the pernicious effect of undue corporate and labor union spending on political campaigns. During that same time, the Supreme Court has decided a long line of precedents that have deferred to Congressional policy judgments and consistently acted with judicial restraint and adherence to precedent, or ‘stare decisis’. I am deeply troubled that the Court abruptly abandoned that century-old tradition today. The effects of the decision will be to undermine existing law, flood the airwaves with corporate and union advertisements, and undercut landmark reforms that I and many others fought to secure to put elections back in the hands of the American people. In short, today's decision was a serious disservice to our country.”

Senator Snowe has been a longtime advocate of campaign finance reform and ardent supporter of the McCain -Feingold campaign finance reform measure enacted into law in 2002. That law included key Snowe provisions that provided for the disclosure of the identity of the corporations, labor unions and their donors when they engage in certain electioneering communications. Today's decision upheld those provisions.