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Letters to the Editor

Senators' votes against Disclose Act disappointing

On July 16, the Disclose Act (short for "Democracy is Strengthened by Casting Light on Spending in Elections") failed to make cloture, which would have allowed the Senate to take up the campaign finance bill. I am disappointed that two of the votes that stopped it came from our Maine senators.

The act would have required groups to disclose all expenditures of \$10,000 or more on election-related communications, as well as the names of contributors who gave \$10,000 or more to fund such efforts.

The people of this country have a right to know who is spending large amounts of money to influence elections, and this bill would simply make that information available.

In election years, I look forward to educational debate waged by candidates, not secret negative political attack ads that may or may not be true. Our leaders must move forward with campaign finance reforms that put voters in the driver's seat of democracy and shine sunlight on shadowy interest groups looking to influence our elections and government.

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