



TO: The Honorable Louis Luchini
The Honorable John Schneck, Co-Chairs
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: January 8, 2020

RE: LD 1902 – An Act To Define the Term "Caucus Political Action Committee"

Good morning Senator Luchini and Representative Schneck. My name is Anna Kellar and I am here today on behalf of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. We are testifying in favor of LD 1902 – An Act To Define the Term "Caucus Political Action Committee."

There is nothing novel about the phenomenon of caucus PACs. For many years each legislative caucus has raised money to support candidates, pay staff, and cover other expenses. The practice has taken on a semi-official status, and the Ethics Commission already informally indicates in its online information portal which of the multitude of political action committees are the four PACs controlled by their respective caucuses.

Caucus committees are also mentioned in Title 21-A, which was recently amended to provide that expenses incurred by the caucus in connection with a candidate's recount are not counted as contributions to the candidate.

Since the concept of a caucus PAC is already embedded in the election laws and widely used in practice, we agree that it is best to have a statutory definition to ensure no confusion in the future, and we support the definition provided in LD 1902.

Note that nothing requires the caucuses to have a PAC, but if they do, they need to designate it in writing to the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.