

HOUSE No. 4543

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning to you for amendment House Bill No. 543, “An Act Relative to Disclosure of Top Contributors for Independent Expenditures or Electioneering Communications.”

This bill is intended to amend the disclosure law enacted in 2014 to increase transparency in state elections by making campaign finance information more readily available to voters. While it successfully extends the requirement that organizations disclose their top five donors – who make contributions in excess of \$5,000 – in television, internet or print advertising to include advertising conducted through electioneering direct mail and on billboards, the legislation makes less than clear the types of organizations to which this requirement applies.

To clarify this particular measure and foster a level playing field, I recommend that House Bill No. 543 be amended:

(i) by inserting, in line 4, after the word “communication” the following words:- “made by an individual group, association, corporation, labor union or other entity”;

(ii) by striking out, in line 7, the words “group or association” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “group, association or labor union”; and

(iii) by inserting, in line 25, after the word “communication” the following words:-
“made by an individual group, association, corporation, labor union or other entity”.

Thank you for your prompt consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker,
Governor