

March 12, 2026
House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
HF 3419
Testimony of Andrew Ervin
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Chair Koegel and committee members:

I am here as a citizen who is an active volunteer in both political campaigns and legislative issues. I am a citizen lobbyist on a variety of issues, including the inclusion of people with disabilities in our communities and affordable housing. I have managed campaigns for a former state house member and a current suburban mayor. In this work I am strongly encouraged by the dedication of many volunteers carrying out door knocking, phone calling, writing post cards and letters to the editor, hosting house parties and putting up lawn signs. Each of these activities are important means of political speech. Our voices are strong. However, I am deeply concerned that the voices of those with huge amounts of money - both corporations and wealthy individuals - can overcome our speech. We all know what forms these forms of mega-speech take - endless mailings and tidal waves of tv, radio and on-line ads.

There are those who will argue that corporations are simply sharing their voice through unlimited investments in the marketplace of political speech. They will argue that corporations speak for their shareholders or other owners. But this is inherently undemocratic - it is effectively shouting down those of us working door to door, making phone calls, and hosting neighborhood house parties. To those who argue that corporations should be able to invest unlimited and hidden money in political speech, I ask how they would ensure that the rest of us have equal access to this marketplace of political speech? I believe that HF 3419 begins to answer that question.

I am strongly encouraged by this bill's strong wording defining political speech as belonging to individuals and not corporations. While this legislation does not *eliminate* large sums of money in state level elections, it does require that it be managed through political funds and committees that are regulated by the state, with full disclosure of amounts and sources. This is a major step forward in strengthening free and fair elections in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

