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***Problems with the Taft-Blackwell bill***

*In his Dec. 17 letter headlined "Take another look at Taft-Blackwell bill," Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell asserted that the campaign-finance bill before the General Assembly simply requires better disclosure. While the League of Women Voters of Ohio wholeheartedly supports those aspects of the bill that improve disclosure, we are disturbed by the section that would unleash corporate contributions. Blackwell used the rationale that corporations are already secretly contributing through so-called front groups, admitting that "ads with a clear point of view and an obvious political message cross the line between issue advocacy and electioneering."*

*The League of Women Voters of Ohio believes the solution is not to legalize this obvious evasion of the law, but to enforce the current law that prohibits use of corporate revenues to influence the election of candidates.*

*We should not throw up our hands in defeat and tell corporations that they are free to buy candidates so long as they tell us about it. No, we should deal with those who "cross the line" in the same way we deal with all illegal actions: by taking them to court. Force them to stop crossing the line, and return elections to the voters.*

*Terry McCoy  
President  
League of Women Voters of Ohio  
Columbus  
December 20, 2002*