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Action Alert
OPPOSE OHIO HOUSE VERSION OF SENATE BILL 214

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**PROTECT DEMOCRACY: STOP EFFORT TO LEGALIZE
DIRECT CORPORATE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN OHIO**

The Ohio House of Representatives has proposed to add an extreme provision to an already-passed Ohio Senate bill (SB 214) that **would for the first time in nearly 100 years allow political campaign contributions (some call them investments) from the treasuries of business corporations.** The bill will be voted the week of December 6 by the Ohio House State Government Committee and if passed could become law a few days later.

Business corporations are currently only permitted to contribute to political campaigns via Political Action Committees (PACs) which are contributions from individuals (i.e. officers, employees, retirees, stockholders) connected to a particular corporation. No profits from corporations can be recycled to directly fund political purposes.

Business corporations through PACs, lobbyists, phony front "educational" groups, corporate owned media, and other vehicles ALREADY possess a tremendous influence over public policy in Ohio and beyond. **Legalization of direct contributions/investments by business corporations would only increase their political influence and, thus, decrease the political influence of people with little money.**

Why is this issue important? Ohio is virtually a one-party state. Increasing the ability of business corporations to consolidate their political grip on a single political party will further increase corporate control over government and public policies and further diminish democracy.

SB 214 contradicts the law passed by the Ohio General Assembly in 1908 outlawing direct corporate involvement in elections. The purpose of that law was "to prevent the corruption of elections and political parties by corporations." Section 1 of that law stated:

That no corporation doing business in this state shall directly or indirectly pay, use or offer, consent or agree to pay or use, any of its money or property for, or in aid, of any political party, committee or organization, or for, or in aid of, any candidate for political office or for nomination for any such office, or in any manner use any of its money or property for any political purpose whatever, or for the reimbursement or indemnification of any person or persons for moneys or property so used.

The Ohio Senate version of SB 214 does not permit direct corporate contributions/investments in politics in Ohio. The the Ohio House version should remove this extreme anti-democratic provision.

ACTIONS

1. Immediately contact your State Representative (and Senator).
2. Contact the following Ohio House State Government Committee Chairs:
Republican: Jim Carmichael Phone: (614) 466-1474 Fax: (614) 644-9494,
Democrat: Annie L. Key (D) Phone: (614) 466-1414 Fax: (614) 644-9494
3. Spread the word about this bill. Activate others.
4. Write a letter to your newspaper.

**More information, contact the American Friends Service Committee
Phone: 330-253-7151 Email: AFSCole@aol.com.**