



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

**MICHAEL S. DAY**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PROUDLY SERVING THE PEOPLE OF  
STONEHAM AND WINCHESTER

VICE CHAIR  
Joint Committee on the Judiciary

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 136  
TEL. (617) 722-2396  
Michael.Day@MAhouse.gov

The Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Election Laws  
Massachusetts State House  
Room 443  
Boston, MA 02133

May 15, 2019

Dear Chairman Lawn, Chairman Finegold and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I write you today in support of, H.642, An Act relative to political contributions. This straightforward legislation would set state contribution limits to independent expenditure PACs, also known as "Super PACs," by aligning them with existing limits for "traditional" PACs of \$5,000 per calendar year.

Super PACs have grown precipitously in Massachusetts politics, spending an estimated \$19.2 million in the 2014 election alone. Much of those monies were raised from exorbitantly large single contributions, far in excess of the \$1,000 per person limit that normally applies to contributions to election committees under MGL chapter 55, section 7A.

Super PACs were created by a decision of the US Court of Appeals for the DC circuit in the case *SpeechNow.org v the Federal Election Commission*. After the DC Circuit issued its decision, the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance issued an interpretive decision (IB 10-030 and a regulation (970 CMR 2.17(4)) deciding that the limits in section 7A could not be applied to political committees that only make independent expenditures. The Legislature's 2014 revision to MGL chapter 55 added disclosure requirements for a newly defined category "independent expenditure PAC," but it did not address contribution limits.

H.642 provides a vital opportunity for the Legislature to limit the potentially corrupting influence of large super PAC contributions in Massachusetts elections. This unlimited outside money is muting, and often in direct contradiction to, the voices and will of the voters. I respectfully request the Committee take a stand against this overly influential money in politics and vote to favorably move An Act relative to political contributions out of the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Day".

Michael S. Day