Resolution in Support of Constituent Service Fund Reform

Passed November 19, 2019

Because the Ward 3 Democratic Committee supports efforts to improve ethical and accountable DC governance and,

Because, as documented by press accounts and the 2019 Report by Public Citizen on Constituent Service Funds entitled “Misused, Inequitable and Ethically Fraught,” these funds have been subject to abuse; specifically, funds have been used for sports and entertainment expenses and only 25% of funds meant to help residents in emergencies are being used for intended purposes, and

Because having elected officials raise funds from companies and individuals for these funds, is in and of itself, fraught with ethical concerns:

The Ward 3 Democratic Committee, therefore supports the Constituent Service Fund Reform Amendment Act of 2019, introduced by Councilmember Grosso and Co-introduced by Councilmembers Allen, White, Silverman and Nadeau.

The Bill, if passed, will repeal the existing constituent service program. In its place the Bill, if enacted,

* establishes a central, publicly-funded constituent service fund for all DC elected officials,

prohibits private donations to remove even the appearance of corruption,

* establishes that expenditures must directly benefit residents and prohibits perks like sports tickets and branded items, and
* empowers the DC Chief Financial Officer to administer the program and approve expenditures.

The passage of this resolution authorizes the Chair, Ward 3 Democratic Committee, or if approved by the Chair, the Chairpersons of the Ethics and Fair Elections Task Force, to take any action consistent with supporting, and gaining passage of this legislation.

Co sponsored By

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