Objective: Safeguarding the policymakers, Members of Congress from the dominating influence of special interests.

A. Constitutional Amendment Overturning Citizens United
- Giving Congress the authority to regulate the raising and spending of money in Federal elections.
- Corporations, labor unions, and political limited liability associations are prohibited from contributing to political campaigns.
- 17 state legislatures have passed resolutions; Calling for a Constitutional convention. 21 states are in the process.

B. Congressional Legislation
- Federal financing of Congressional Elections.
- Matching funds: 4 to 1 match to $500 limit of an individual’s contribution.

C. Lobbying Reform
- Nothing of value: Prohibition on gifts and fundraising activity by lobbyists to Members of Congress.

D. Control the Revolving Door
- Impose a 5 year “cooling off” period before a Member of Congress or staff can become a lobbyist.

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”

Abraham Lincoln
THE CASE FOR REFORM

Healthcare is the U.S.'s largest economic sector, consuming $3.3 Trillion in 2017, 18% of the economy, increasing in cost faster than the economy grows. The rest of the industrialized world provides care for all citizens at half the cost. Our Government already finances 50% of the U.S. healthcare budget via Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs and it regulates an insurance industry which finances the balance through employer-based plans. While Americans support Congressional action to provide universal coverage and to reduce cost, needed reform does not occur. Corporate agendas rather than the public interest dominate national health policy in the U.S. Congress.

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS D-MONTANA
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

• Baucus’s committee was responsible for shepherding the Affordable Care Act through the Senate.
• The healthcare sector contributed $1.3 Million to the 2008 Senator Baucus re-election campaign, more than his opponent spent in total during the race.

WASHINGTON POST

CAMPAIGN FUNDING REALITY

• 2010–2014, for top 10 most competitive Senate races, 60% of outside spending came from Dark Money (Undisclosed sources) That money went overwhelmingly to support the winning candidates.

ELECTION SPENDING IN 2014, BRENNEN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

WHO PAYS FOR U.S. ELECTIONS?

$1.4 Billion is “Dark Money”
“No disclosure required.”

Brennan Center for Justice at NY University School of Law

• 158 wealthy families contributed half of the funding for the first phase of the 2016 Presidential campaign, $176 Million.
• Not since Watergate have so few people and businesses provided so much early money in a campaign.
• Most of it was “Dark Money” through channels legalized by the Citizens United decision.
• Dark Money in federal campaigns has grown over 5,000% since 2004.

THE REVOLVING DOOR

CONGRESS: A FINISHING SCHOOL FOR THE REALLY GOOD MONEY
Job: Lobbying

Currently, 50% of former Senators and 42% of former members of Congress and their staff go to work for lobbyists. Up from just 3% in the 1970s.

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