

SOLUTIONS

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

ORGANIZATIONS FOR REFORM

Issue One

www.issueone.org

Represent Us

www.represent.us

American Promise

www.americanpromise.net

Take Back Our Republic

www.takeback.org

End Citizens United

www.endcitizensunited.org

Center For Responsive Politics

www.opensecrets.org

Patriotic Millionaires

www.patrioticmillionaires.org

Tarbell

www.tarbell.org

Reclaim The American Dream

www.reclaimtheamericandream.org

Clean Up Carl

www.cleanupcarl.com

Brennan Center For Justice

www.brennancenter.org

Every Voice

www.everyvoice.org

Public Citizens

www.citizen.org

The Stamp Stampede

www.stampstampede.org

Voices For Progress

www.voicesforprogress.org

BIG MONEY AGENDA
DEMOCRACY ON THE BRINK



@FixIt.HealthCare



@FixItMovie

WWW.FIXITHEALTHCARE.COM

Unfinished Business Foundation

BIG MONEY AGENDA

DEMOCRACY ON THE BRINK

A Documentary film from the Unfinished Business Foundation



**Can we fix
U.S. healthcare
without first fixing
our democracy?**

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.

LOBBYING SPEND BY THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR 1998–2017

Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices	\$3.7 Billion
Insurance	\$2.5 Billion
Hospitals/Nursing Homes	\$1.5 Billion
Health Professionals	\$1.3 Billion
Total	\$9 Billion

Open Secrets

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.

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, Brennan Center for Justice

WHAT DID BIG MONEY ACHIEVE?

Single Payer, Medicare for All Healthcare...

OFF THE TABLE

The Public Option: Establishing the Government as an insurer, to compete with private insurers for employer-sponsored health policies...

OFF THE TABLE

Negotiation for Medicare Drug Prices...

OFF THE TABLE

Competitive importation of drugs to gain access to pricing available internationally...

OFF THE TABLE

How much time do members of Congress spend raising money?

40–50% of their 10 hour working day

Newsweek

CITIZENS UNITED DECISION

- Unleashed corporations and unions to make unlimited contributions to political committees operating “independent” of parties and campaigns.
- “The most misguided, naive, uninformed egregious decision of the U.S. Supreme Court.” John McCain

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.

NY Times

LOBBYING: THE DIMENSION OF THE PROBLEM

10,000

Registered lobbyists in Washington D.C.

20

Lobbyists for every member of Congress.

\$3 Billion

A year in cost.

NY Times: How to Get Rich in Trump’s Washington.

THE REVOLVING DOOR

- Buying members of Congress. Billy Tauzin (R-LA) gets a **1,452%** raise... Making **\$19.3 Million** as a lobbyist for pharmaceutical companies between 2006 and 2010. (Left Congress in 2005, after leading President Bush’s Medicare Part D prescription drug legislation for seniors.)
- James Greenwood (R-PA) received **\$6.6 Million** between 2005-2010 as head of the Biotechnology Industry Association.
- Steve Bartlett (R-TX) Salary at the Financial Service Roundtable **1,770% higher** than his last year in Congress.

NY Times