BCRA: Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002

Reform Groups Urge House Leadership to Support Clarifications and Changes to the House Ethics Rules

In letters sent today to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Republican Leader John Boehner, the Campaign Legal Center and other reform groups strongly urged Representatives Pelosi and Boehner to support clarifications and changes to the new House ethics rules adopted at the beginning of 2007.

To read the letter sent to Minority Leader Boehner, click here.

To read the letter sent to Speaker Pelosi, click here.

Click here to read Democracy 21's fact sheet on the Pence proposal.

Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002

After a fiercely contested and highly divisive seven-year partisan legislative battle, the proponents of reform finally prevailed in Congress. The Senate initially passed S. 27, known as the McCain-Feingold legislation for its principal sponsors, Republican John McCain of Arizona and Democrat Russell Feingold of Wisconsin, in March of 2001 on a 59 to 41 vote. Following a long delay and extensive parliamentary maneuvering, the House responded by passing H.R. 2356, the companion bill known as Shays-Meehan, for its principal sponsors, Republican Christopher Shays of Connecticut and Democrat Martin Meehan of Massachusetts, on February 14, 2002, by a vote of 240 to 189. On March 20, 2002, the Senate approved the House-passed measure by a 60-40 vote, thereby avoiding a conference to reconcile differences between the two bills. President George W. Bush signed the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act into law on March 27, 2002.

Click here to view the bill in its entirety.