

The Hon. John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi  
House Democratic Leader  
H-205, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Eric Cantor  
House Republican Leader  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Steny Hoyer  
House Democratic Whip  
1705 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Pete Sessions  
Chairman, House Rules Committee  
2233 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Louise Slaughter  
Ranking Member, House Rules Committee  
2469 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader Cantor, Minority Whip Hoyer, Chairman Sessions, and Ranking Member Slaughter,

We the undersigned are writing to express our support for the Presidential Library Donation Reform Act, introduced in the 113th Congress as H.R. 1133. The legislation is the latest of a series of bipartisan efforts to bring a welcome measure of transparency to fundraising around presidential libraries.

Currently, presidents raise funds privately to establish their presidential libraries, often starting long before they leave office. This fundraising is currently unregulated and undisclosed, creating clear opportunities for influence-peddling.

For far too long, a cloud has hung over library fundraising efforts. Oftentimes, it appeared that donors supported presidential libraries because of the connection it built with a president whose imminent departure put him in a position to dole out favors, an inference only strengthened by the lack of disclosure around contributions. Improved transparency would help reduce the appearance of impropriety by bringing these transactions into the daylight and deterring inappropriate behavior.

The legislation requires fundraising organizations to submit quarterly reports on entities that have contributed above a certain threshold towards a presidential library. The reports shall be made available online by the National Archives as soon as they are received in a searchable, sortable, downloadable database.

While greater transparency on donations to presidential libraries does not resolve all outstanding campaign finance disclosure issues, it is a measured response to a discrete problem and is worthy of support.

The Presidential Library Donation Reform Act was recently reported favorably by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. We hope that Congress speedily considers and enacts this legislation.

Sincerely,

American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression  
American Library Association  
Californians Aware  
Center for Effective Government (formerly OMB Watch)  
Center for Media and Democracy  
Center for Responsive Politics  
Center for Science and Democracy, Union of Concerned Scientists  
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington  
eCitizens.org  
Freedom of Information Center at the Missouri School of Journalism  
iSolon.org  
National Coalition for History  
National Freedom of Information Coalition  
The National Security Archive  
Northern California Association of Law Libraries  
OpenTheGovernment.org  
Progressive Librarians Guild  
Project On Government Oversight (POGO)  
Society of American Archivists  
Society of Professional Journalists  
Sunlight Foundation  
Tully Center for Free Speech  
Utah Foundation for Open Government  
Washington Coalition for Open Government