

July 27, 2010



The Honorable Harry Reid
Hart Senate Office Building SH-522
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the members of National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), and the millions of viewers and listeners that they represent, I am writing today to urge you to reject the DISCLOSE Act, S. 3628, in its entirety. This legislation is fraught with numerous problems, but from our perspective chief among them is the serious affront to the First Amendment rights of non-profit advocacy organizations and the crippling burdens it places on them.

This bill was clearly created as a visceral reaction to the recent decision of the Supreme Court in Citizens United v. F.E.C. However, we believe that, if passed, the DISCLOSE Act would be held just as unconstitutional as its predecessor legislation. The legislation creates entirely new, burdensome regulations for nonprofit advocacy groups that speak out. Organizations will be required to divulge their membership lists to the government. This would violate the freedom of association rights of such groups. Certain donor names will face mandatory disclosure in campaign advertisements, creating a clear threat of intimidation for members of the public who financially support nonprofit organizations. This bill also places a stranglehold on advocacy organizations, including small grass-roots ones, by wrapping them in a maze of red tape and reporting restrictions, and then threatening them with civil and criminal prosecution if they fail to *dot an "i" or cross a "t."* in those vast reporting duties set out in this 117 page bill.

We see even more policy problems with this bill than these mentioned, including the special, gratuitous exemptions that are afforded to a handful of large organizations while regulating numerous smaller organizations. But in the final analysis, we perceive DISCLOSE as legislation that would throttle the First Amendment rights of nonprofit organizations and other grass roots groups, and would intimidate many of them from participating fully in our democratic process.

This bill is unjust, unfair and unconstitutional. We urge you to vote "No."

Sincerely,

Frank Wright, Ph.D.
President & CEO

Cc: Republican Leader McConnell

National
Religious
Broadcasters

9510 Technology Drive
Manassas, Virginia 20110
Phone: 703-330-7000
Fax: 703-330-7100

Capitol Hill Office:
603 2nd Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 202-543-0073
Fax: 202-543-2649

www.nrb.org
info@nrb.org

Christian
Communicators
Impacting
the World