

Eddie Sleeper

From: Cynthia Richardson <richardson530@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 8:37 AM
To: Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou (District 75); Rep. Dylan Wegela (District 26); Rep. Rachelle Smit (District 43); Rep. Kara Hope (District 74); Rep. Matt Koleszar (District 22); Rep. Erin Byrnes (District 15); Rep. Jaime Churches (District 27); Rep. Jay DeBoyer (District 63)
Cc: Eddie Sleeper
Subject: VOTE NO on HB4230, 4234, 4413

Dear Chair Tsernoglou and Members of the House Elections Committee,

Regarding **HB4230** – this bill is not listed on the Committee Bill Record for the House Elections Committee. Why is this Committee continuously partaking in nontransparent activities time and time again? **Please be transparent** in your Committee activities. Stop sneaking bills in.

HB4234 – *Campaign finance: other; automatic payroll deductions for PAC contributions; allow.* This is wrong. Employers, especially the State of Michigan, should not have the power to strong-arm their employees into making payroll PAC (Political Action Committees) contributions. As a retired human resources leader, I witnessed leadership have the payroll department run reports indicating employee PAC or charity contributions, verbally tell managers which employees to encourage to contribute or contribute more, and I was a victim of my manager telling me that since I was recently promoted to being a manager I need to increase my contributions to a certain percentage. Do not subject employees to this form of back-room strong-arming.

HB4413 - *Campaign finance; contributions and expenditures; use of campaign funds to pay for child care expenses; allow.* This is a slippery slope that leads one to wonder, where does it end? Who will audit and ensure that family members are not benefiting from campaign contributions under the guise of a child/adult caretaker, security or supervisor? This bill is open to be abused by a candidate and an elected official while they campaign for another term.

Below is my in-person testimony from the May 9, 2023 Elections Committee hearing:

HB4413 proposes to allow the use of campaign funds to pay for childcare expenses, security or supervision. Campaign contributions need to go towards expenses related to campaigning, not toward everyday personal responsibilities one needs to manage while they run for office.

What is to prevent candidates and elected officials from further expanding campaign finance laws to allow them to supplement their income, housing, transportation, private schooling, cosmetic surgery, etc.? I could go on all morning. Many candidates who are elected register to run again not long after they start in office which means the elected official will have long-term covered childcare.

The citizens of Michigan who work and pay taxes do not have this luxury, so why should candidates and elected officials be so privileged as to tap into their campaign funds for this expense? There is a lot that is not being considered with HB4413 and this will only lead to opening the floodgates of special treatment for those providing a civic duty on behalf of its citizens. PIME does not support HB4413.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Richardson
PIME (Pure Integrity Michigan Elections) Member
Precinct Delegate - Waterloo Township | Jackson County