

Statements from Reform Organizations and Experts Supporting the “We the People Democracy Reform Act of 2017” Introduced by Senator Udall and Representative Price

Democracy 21

Fred Wertheimer, President

Our current broken political system does a grave disservice to the American people. The problems we face today include a destructive and corrupting campaign finance system; undemocratic partisan gerrymandering; and a seriously flawed voting system. The comprehensive package of democracy reforms introduced by Senator Udall and Representative Price provides an important roadmap for solving the fundamental problems with our political system when the opportunity arises in the future, as history tells us it surely will one day. Democracy 21 applauds Senator Udall and Representative Price for the critical national leadership they are providing at a time when the American people clearly recognize our political system is badly broken and must be repaired.

Brennan Center for Justice

Wendy Weiser, Director, Democracy Program

At a time when our democracy is under severe strain, we need positive solutions to restore faith in our system. We are grateful to Senator Tom Udall and Representative David Price for introducing an essential legislative reform package to repair our broken campaign finance system, end extreme partisan gerrymandering, and modernize our voter registration system. These reforms will go a long way toward ensuring that our democracy works for all Americans.

Common Cause

Karen Hobert Flynn, President

At a time when too many Americans do not think they have a meaningful voice in their democracy, when confidence in our institutions is at historic lows, and cynicism at record highs, this democracy reform package is needed more than ever. These reforms are working at the state level, empowering citizens and breaking down barriers to participation for all Americans, irrespective of political party. We commend the democracy reform package being introduced today by Senator Udall and Representative Price, and the legislative efforts being undertaken by many other reform leaders in Congress. We look forward to supporting these efforts and ongoing collaboration to help ensure that all Americans can have a stronger voice in our government.

**League of Women Voters
Chris Carson, President**

At a time when our politics appear divided, Senator Udall and Representative Price offer a clear path forward for improving our democracy. This legislation will elevate the voices of the American people so we can be heard over the special interests and partisan bickering. This bill will strengthen our elections with automatic and online registration, enabling more voters to participate in our great democracy. This is a step forward all elected officials should support on behalf of the American people.

**People For the American Way
Marge Baker, Executive Vice President for Policy and Program**

This legislation is an enormous step towards empowering voters and ending the corrosive effects of big money in our politics—and it's a rebuke to anyone says that these are problems that are too big to be tackled. This bill has common sense solutions that have the support of Americans across the political spectrum, and it would make an enormous difference in making sure that voters, not big money, are in charge of our democracy.

**Public Citizen
Lisa Gilbert, Vice President for Legislation**

The democracy reforms unveiled by lawmakers today are a critical step toward answering the frustrations of voters who feel muscled out of the political process by big corporations and the wealthy. Americans are mobilizing around the country and demanding change, and this package brings forth concrete proposals to address the problem of Big Money dominance and influence in our politics, as well as our improve the efficiency of our elections. Public Citizen applauds these reforms and will fight to ensure that these proposals restore a government of, by and for the people – not the super wealthy and giant corporations.

Norman Eisen, chief White House ethics lawyer for Barack Obama and Richard Painter, chief White House ethics lawyer for President George W. Bush

We strongly support the comprehensive democracy reform legislation introduced by Senator Tom Udall and Representative David Price. The country faces major problems today with the functioning of our political system. They include a broken campaign finance system, gerrymandered congressional districts and antiquated voting laws. The Udall, Price legislation shows the country that there are effective solutions that can be implemented to address these serious problems for our democracy.

Center for American Progress
Winnie Stachelberg, Executive Vice President of External Affairs

“Until we win strong democracy solutions to rebalance power over government, wealthy special interests will continue to distort policy decisions and stack the deck for themselves. For example, recent data shows that the twenty wealthiest Americans own more wealth than the bottom half of the population—over one hundred and fifty million people. Americans deserve fair representation and a responsive government that adopts equitable economic policies to support Americans’ lives, families, and communities. This bill combines important anti-corruption political reforms and empowerment policies so people can demand responsiveness and exercise accountability over their elected representatives and get government working for people.”