

LARSON SUPPORTS SHAYS/MEEHAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM BILL

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WASHINGTON, D.C. U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) stated: We must all thank Chris Shays and Martin Meehan for their courage and steadfast leadership on the issue of campaign finance reform. The fight for reform has been a long and difficult one, and has only made it this far because of their work and perseverance.

I am proud to stand with Chris Shays today, both as a fellow member of the Connecticut delegation, and a supporter of his cause. If ever there was a profile in courage, it is Chris Shays going against his own party's leadership and fighting for true reform. Dick Armey's speech on the floor of the House this afternoon attacking Chris Shays was shameful, and I felt it did a disservice to an excellent Congressman who has stood up and fought for what he believes in and what he knows is right. While Chris and I do not agree on every issue that comes before the House, I know him well enough to see that he is a man of unquestionable integrity and honesty.

The amount of money that flows through the modern American political process is a stain on public service. This Congress has no shortage of dedicated public servants, many of whom have a disdain for the fundraising process. A system that at times allows Americans to believe that their elected representatives are beholden to any special interest, other than the interests of their constituents, is unconscionable. We must remove the negative influence that money has on our campaigns and help increase people's faith in our elected officials and institutions, and this legislation goes a long way in accomplishing that goal.

Larson had previously signed on as a co-sponsor when the legislation was introduced in January, and voted in favor a similar piece of legislation in 1999, during the 106th Congress.

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