

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 838

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit a candidate for election for Federal office from using amounts contributed to the candidate's campaign to make payments to vendors owned or controlled by the candidate or by an immediate family member of the candidate.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit a candidate for election for Federal office from using amounts contributed to the candidate's campaign to make payments to vendors owned or controlled by the candidate or by an immediate family member of the candidate.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Campaign Spending
5 Integrity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR PAY-**
2 **MENTS TO VENDORS OWNED OR CON-**
3 **TROLLED BY CANDIDATE OR IMMEDIATE**
4 **FAMILY MEMBER.**

5 (a) PROHIBITION.—Section 313(b) of the Federal
6 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114(b)) is
7 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
8 graph:

9 “(3) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS TO VENDORS
10 OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY CANDIDATE OR IMME-
11 DIATE FAMILY MEMBER AS CONVERSION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of para-
13 graph (1), a contribution to an authorized com-
14 mittee of a candidate shall be considered to be
15 converted to the personal use of the candidate
16 if the contribution is used to make a payment
17 to a vendor which is owned or controlled by the
18 candidate or by an immediate family member of
19 the candidate.

20 “(B) DETERMINATION OF OWNERSHIP
21 AND CONTROL.—For purposes of subparagraph
22 (A), a vendor shall be considered to be owned
23 or controlled by a candidate or by an immediate
24 family member of the candidate if the candidate
25 or the immediate family member—

1 “(i) is a member of the board of di-
 2 rectors or similar governing body of the
 3 vendor; or

4 “(ii) directly or indirectly owns or
 5 controls 51 percent or more of the voting
 6 shares of the vendor.

7 “(C) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER DE-
 8 FINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘imme-
 9 diate family member’ means, with respect to a
 10 candidate, any of the following:

11 “(i) Spouse, and parents thereof.

12 “(ii) Sons and daughters, and spouses
 13 thereof.

14 “(iii) Parents, and spouses thereof.

15 “(iv) Brothers and sisters, and
 16 spouses thereof.

17 “(v) Grandparents and grandchildren,
 18 and spouses thereof.

19 “(vi) Domestic partner and parents
 20 thereof, including domestic partners of any
 21 individual in clauses (i) through (v).”.

22 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 23 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to payments made
 24 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.