

Jan. 24 -- To the Editor:

Public officials should be in office for the sole purpose of serving the best interests of their constituents and promoting the views they believe will best lead the community. The influence money holds in our government pressures elected officials to act in favor of their wealthy supporters regardless of whether those actions are in the interests of those they are meant to represent. Americans of all beliefs and parties are angered to see the issues they care about going unsolved while the interests of wealthy donors are catered to.

If such a system of bought representation continues, then money will replace the education, activism, and self governing which is meant to be the driving force of democratic decisions. We will lose our democracy if this system progresses, and with it the voices of all its citizens. Thus regulating money used in elections and governance to prevent corruption and assure equal representation is of paramount importance, no matter what one's political affiliations might be.

Money-based corruption is older than our democracy and we cannot expect to eradicate it with a single piece of legislation. We must pass HB1524 and more bills like it to catalyze what will be a long but necessary fight for equal representation for all.

**Ella McGrail**