

**GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT UPON SIGNING  
SENATE BILL NO. 150**

Today I am signing Senate Bill No. 150, which revises "The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act" to require independent expenditure committees to regularly disclose contributions and expenditures in excess of identified monetary thresholds to the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC). I commend my colleagues in the Legislature for their continued efforts to ensure that so-called "dark money" is brought out into the light.

As I described at length in the message accompanying my conditional veto of Senate Bill No. 1500 (Fifth Reprint), I am concerned that extending the disclosure requirements to cover advocacy that is not connected to an issue before the electorate may infringe upon constitutionally protected speech and association rights. As detailed in my message, the United States Supreme Court has long recognized the harm that overly broad disclosure requirements can cause to an organization, its mission and its members. Additionally, I remain concerned that various apparent drafting errors in the bill may invite confusion among filers and could spawn time-consuming litigation.

I am therefore signing this bill based on an express commitment from my colleagues in the Legislature, including legislative leadership and the bill's prime sponsors, to introduce and swiftly pass legislation removing advocacy in connection with legislation and regulations from its parameters, thereby ensuring that the bill's disclosure requirements apply to election-related advocacy, and making previously recommended technical revisions in order to ensure its consistent application.

I thank the sponsors for their commitment to this important issue. I am confident that this bill, along with its agreed-upon companion, will bring greater transparency to our political process in a manner that is both legally and technically sound.

Date: June 17, 2019

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Matthew J. Platkin

Chief Counsel to the Governor