

## New Hampshire Hearing of Clean Elections Bill 5/1/07

My name is Doris Grannyd Haddock and my address is Post Office Box 492, Dublin, New Hampshire.

**Through the different stages of our lives we see the world differently.**

**As children and as young people, we are somewhat astonished that the people we see in the world around us are not more dedicated to fairness, to taking care of each other, to peace and justice. It seems so obvious to us that these are the right values that should guide us. We cannot understand why some people go out of their way to create trouble and harm, to be unfair and selfish. Why would people make the world a troublesome place, when kindness is so much more beautiful and so much easier? Well, there is great wisdom in the young mind, is there not?**

**And when we are very old, and the noise of the world settles down in our old ears, and the competitions are all run, and the beauty of life**

**concentrates into a brighter sparkle as its little parade continues down the road without us, then we look around and find ourselves again a bit astonished that people, in the short time given them on this little planet are not more dedicated to fairness, to taking care of each other, to peace and justice, joy and beauty. It seems so obvious to us again.**

**And somewhere between youth and old age, you may find yourself at the table of power, where you are pulled between the ideals that have been burning brightly in your mind since childhood, and the real limitations of life that must be negotiated in hard landscapes of compromise.**

**As someone who can speak as an old woman, but who remembers the thoughts of childhood, I would like to remind you of something you once were quite sure of, and will be sure of again. Here it is: Democracy. Democracy is our common tool of community. We find leaders among ourselves because, among our many friends, they are especially wise, creative, ethically courageous. They will help us, as we will help ourselves, to create an ever-better**

**community where our children can grow up to be strong, caring, accomplished and free.**

**I have watched politics for a long time in this state, as I was born here in Laconia 97 years ago I have watched as our young people have gone off to war to defend our freedoms. A constant feature of our people has been their deep sense of patriotism, and I am sure that this feeling runs deep in your own instinct for public service. We inherited it from our forefathers who were inhabitants of this state when New Hampshire was one of America's first thirteen colonies.**

**I do not have to waste your time in telling you that we will resist any slipping away of our belief that all citizens have a right to be heard and to take their turn representing us as our public servants. You will resist any changes that would reserve those rights to only the rich, just as our great grandfathers and mothers resisted the crown and its designated lords.**

**If we could bring back our forefathers to this room, they would, I am quite sure, warn you of the fact that the costs of running for office have changed in a way that threatens the freedom of**



**the average man and woman. They would appeal to your patriotism to amend the law so that average people could again be heard and again give service.**

**Some states have confronted that patriotic challenge. In Maine, Arizona and Connecticut, and recently in other states and cities, the people can raise small contributions among their fellow citizens that qualify them for public funds so that public elections can again belong to the people, and not to the wealthy elite. The candidates and public officials under this system owe allegiance not to selfserving special interests, but to the people of their districts. That is where they now spend their time during the campaigns. That is who they listen to first, when they are in office after a clean election.. That is a dramatic return to the kind of democracy that America's young people have been willing to risk and sacrifice their lives for. This is the freedom of a free people.**

**In passing a Clean Elections program for New Hampshire, you are not being asked to embrace an unproven, radical reform You are being**

**asked to return us to the time when the public paid for the debates in the park, when the family businessmen of our main streets made the small contributions to modest campaigns to get the word ou.**

**The cost of advertising today is of course the distortion to the system that threatens our idea of a government of, by and for our people The Clean Elections program is the logical and quite necessary adjustment to that new fact.**

**Making this change is something we owe to ourselves, to the coming generation, and, in all patriotism, it is what we owe to those who have again and again secured our freedom as a self-governing people. The system will cost money. Roads cost money. Schools cost money. Public health costs money. Democracy costs money.**

**You may resist the idea of doing what Arizona did, which was to add a 10 % surcharge on civic and criminal penalties to fund the system in Arizona, no one has to contribute to the system, all they have to do instead is to obey the law.**

**You may say that, if we had that additional revenue, we would be better advised to use it for our schools or something else.**

**That argument is not a fair one if the underfunding of schools is of your own doing, of course.**

**Even so, if a free democracy is the item you would choose to undefund because you have underfunded other necessary needs, how does that square with your patriotic commitment to a free people's democracy? Would you tour the veteran's hospitals and cemeteries with that message? Would you not feel more like messengers of the crown, making your argument that the wealthy elite know best to govern, and that they will dole out the budget in breadcrumbs as they see best?**

**We are entering a time of great change. It is in the very weather. Will we enter these new times as a free people, or as a people led only by the millionaires who grace us with their courteous power?**

**New Hampshire is a state where a kind of**



**person=to=person politics is considered one of our greatest assets. Will we protect that treasure?**

**I think you will find a good way to create less-expensive campaigns and better public support for candidates. I think that, when you are much older, it will make the child in you smile a very satisfied smile, for it will have been the right thing to do, when you had your brief moment to make things better. So I think you will vote for this fair elections bill, and New Hampshire will be the forth state after Maine, Arizona and Connecticut to have public funding of elections and other states will follow, a critical mass will form and we will go federal as many of our good laws have been accomplished. We will have a different kind of a country. a country dedicated to fairness, to taking care of each other, to peace and justice. We will have changed the world.**

**Thank you.**

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