

Washington, DC – On Thursday evening, Rep. David Price (D-NC) will join a campaign finance symposium hosted by Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy. Members of the media are invited to a Thursday panel discussion where Rep. Price, Maryland Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD) and others will discuss campaign and election reforms. Rep. Price will be available for individual interviews at the conclusion of the panel discussion.

Rep. Price has proposed the Empowering Citizens Act, a campaign reform bill aimed at putting the financing of elections back into the hands of middle and working class Americans, and blunting the corrosive influence of Super PACs unleashed by the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. The move is a part of House Democrats' Election Reform Task Force, which is working to develop a positive legislative agenda for reforms to safeguard the democratic process for all Americans.

The ECA combines the ideas behind Reps. Price and Chris Van Hollen's (D-MD) Presidential Funding Act (introduced in the last Congress), with a new title creating a similar small donor matching system for congressional elections. The small donor matching systems operates on a 5:1 match for donations of up to \$250 for presidential and congressional campaigns. The third title of the bill blunts the impact of Super PACs by strengthening anti-coordination rules for candidate-specific Super PACs. The change would prevent Super PACs, operated by close friends or family with the goal of circumventing the letter of the law barring coordination, from operating as virtual arms of candidates' election efforts.

Other members of the task force have worked to develop legislation safeguarding early voting, creating a universal voter registration system, and giving states additional tools to reduce the long lines and long waits many voters experienced as they headed to the polls during the 2012 election.

Who: Rep. David Price (NC-04), Rep. John Sarbanes (MD-03)

What: Panel Discussion on Campaign and Election Reforms

When: Thursday, January 31, 2013, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Where: Fleishman Commons at the Sanford School, 201 Science Drive, Durham, NC

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