



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

April 6, 2010

Secretary Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of and transmit to you my objections to, Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 1207, enacted during the 112th Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2010 and entitled:

An act relating to Campaign Financing...

House Bill 1207 authorizes the creation of Affiliated Party Committees or leadership funds, and provides for the regulation of electioneering communications that pertain to a candidate for elective office.

Twenty-one years ago, the Florida Legislature acted to bring the fundraising activities of its members into the sunshine by eliminating the use of "leadership funds." These accounts allowed legislative leaders to solicit and accept campaign contributions during the legislative session from lobbyists and interest groups outside of the public view.

While I commend the sponsors of this bill for their effort to bring more transparency and accountability in their attempt to revive leadership funds, I reject the notion that Affiliated Party Committees or leadership funds will benefit our state.

Despite the troubling aspects of this bill, I am pleased that the legislation requires electioneering communication organizations to operate with transparency. Floridians would be empowered through disclosure to determine who is actually trying to influence their vote. I urge the Legislature to use the time remaining in the Legislative Session to send me new legislation addressing this important issue.

For these reasons, I hereby withhold my signature form Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 1207, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist