CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

July 11, 2001

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution No. 36, the flag protection constitutional amendment.

The flag stands for all of us in this wonderful country, and the honor we bestow upon it as our symbol is as wonderful as the contributions each of us should hope to make for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I consistently vote for an idea and the reasoned purpose of the flag protection constitutional amendment. It is time to pass meaningful campaign finance reform legislation. Let us take soft money out of politics, let us restore integrity to our political system.

The bipartisan Shays-Meehan Campaign Reform Act has passed in this body twice before. We should finally move to make it law. Shays-Meehan bans soft money for national parties, it reins in campaign advertisements masquerading as issue advocacy, enhances disclosure of political expenditures, and provides the Federal Election Commission with the teeth it needs to enforce the law.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership is determined to drive a stake through the heart of all campaign finance reform. They have introduced a sham alternative that is intended to delay, distract, and to ultimately kill real reform. The bill will not clean up our campaign finance system but rather allow even more money to flow through it.

Their bill would allow a wealthy couple to give $1.26 million in hard and...