promises for reform, or we can pretend to keep our promises. The only true re
form is known by McCain-Feingold and Shays-Meehan. Let us pass that today.

OPPOSE THE RESTRICTIONS ON
FREE SPEECH IN SHAYS-MEEHAN
MEASURE

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given
permission to address the House for 1
minute and to revise and extend his
remarks.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, this body is
on the verge of a very important
election today, a vote that at its essence is
really a vote on whether or not to up
hold the constitutional right Ameri
cans have to free speech.

The restrictions in the Shays-Meehan
bill are an affront to the Jeffersonian
values of our great land, and they an
nihilate the principles that form the founda
tion of our country and its rule of law. Indivi
duals, organizations, and businesses in our
great land should be able to sup
port the viewpoint and the party of
their choice. We must allow citizens to
vote how they see fit, and they must be able to con
tribute to our system of democ
racy.

SUPPORT REAL CAMPAIGN
FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and
was given permission to address the
House for 1 minute and to revise and
extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speak
er, I rise today in support of real cam
paign finance reform.

Why is this so critical? Why is it so
important to us today? There is far too
much special interest money in our po
litical democracy. Special interests are
drowning out the voice of the Ameri
can people, and they are sick of it.

In my race in San Diego, my oppo
nent and I were outspent by special in
terests by a ratio of 4 to 1. Special in
terests’ television and mailers flooded
the 49th district constituents. All of this soft money made it virtually im
possible for the candidates to com
municate directly to the voters. Voters were frustrated with a lack of honest
information. There was so much infor
mation coming from so many undis
closed sources that they did not know
who to believe and what was coming from
whom.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure
that voters are the center of our demo
cratic election system. They deserve
nothing less. So I urge this House to
pass strong and effective campaign fi
nance reform today, to do it without
compromise and to do it in an honest and
straightforward way. The American
public is depending upon us.

MINNESOTANS WANT REAL
CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Ms. McCOLLUM asked and was given
permission to address the House for 1
minute and to revise and extend her re
marks.)

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, Min
nesotans want real campaign finance
reform. They want it now. My State
has led the Nation in how we run our
elections. From our voters registering
on election day to limiting our campa
ign spending, Minnesota campaigns
have a reputation of being open, honest
and competitive; and we consistently
lead the Nation in voter turnout.

One of the reasons why I ran for Con
gress was to work to help to restore the
public’s trust in our elected leaders. The Shays-Meehan bill is the first good
step in cleaning up our campaign fi
nance system. By eliminating soft
money, Americans’ confidence in our
electoral system will be restored.

Mr. Speaker, this bill helps to con
tral the amount of money contributed
in campaigns, but we need to go fur
ther. We must take control of how
much money is spent on elections. I
will work to take the next step on cam
paign finance reform by limiting the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on
our elections. However, we must begin
now. We must begin today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to
support Shays-Meehan and begin the
process.

DEFEAT CERTAIN AMENDMENTS
to campaign finance reform bill.

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given per
mission to address the House for 1
minute and to revise and extend her re
marks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today we
have a very important issue before us:
campaign finance reform. I want to
talk about two amendments that are
going to be coming up before us.

One is known as the Linder-Schrock
amendment, and it bans the use of
funds that unions and corporations
would give to communicate with their
members and stockholders. How ridicul
ous.

In California we had a similar propo
sition, and it failed miserably; and that
proposition was known as Prop 226. I
am glad to say that the residents and
those that voted in that election de
feated it overwhelmingly. Let us make sure that we defeat that amend
ment here also.

Another amendment that I believe is
egregious would also restrict and limit
legal immigrants from making con
tributions to Federal candidates. Again, we are limiting their ability to
to vote and to communicate with their
Liberty Amendment, which would preclude individuals from
communicating with people and ideas
that they support.

If this is truly America, then we have
to stand up for all legal immigrants
that are tax-paying, that serve our
country, that are playing by the rules,
and that are maybe one step away of
becoming citizens. Let us do the right
thing and defeat these two amend
ments.

OPPOSE THE RULE ON CAMPAIGN
FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given
permission to address the House for 1
minute and to revise and extend his re
marks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am
anxious, we are all anxious, to begin
campaign finance reform and to begin
by making our rules more fair. Un
fortunately, we need to oppose the rule
that is coming before this House this
morning. It is a rule that tells the gen
tleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS)
and the gentleman from Massachusetts
(Mr. MEEHAN) that they cannot present
their bill to this House in the form
that they want to present it. Instead,
the manager’s amendment is chopped
up into 12 pieces.

This is unprecedented. This is unfair.
This is not reform. This is not the way
this House should conduct its business.
A vote on Shays-Meehan should be a
done on the bill that the authors would
like us to vote on, not an old draft
from 3 or 4 weeks ago. If we have a
manager’s amendment that comes be
fore this House, it should be one
amendment, not chopped up into 12
time-wasting pieces.

Vote “no” on the rule.

TIME TO END CORRUPTING INFLU
ENCE OF MONEY ON PUBLIC
POLICY

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given
permission to address the House for 1
minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the cor
rupting influence of money on public
policy is evident in this House every
day. It is evident not only as a prin
cipal concern that arises here on vote
time, but it is also particularly evident in
the silence on critical issues of public
policy, on what is never discussed.
When we are unable to consider critical
issues of public health because of the
influence of the tobacco industry; when
we are never able to debate the out
rageous price discrimination against
our seniors on their pharmaceuticals

July 12, 2001