ReFormers Caucus Statement

In recent years, America has crossed a dangerous threshold. The power of excessive money in our political system threatens the integrity of our democracy. A sizeable majority of voters—Republicans, Democrats and Independents—agree that this is a major problem and must be addressed. The 2016 presidential election presents a unique opportunity to bring unprecedented attention to this problem and its solutions and build a broad coalition of Americans committed to fixing it.

The bipartisan **ReFormers Caucus**, comprised of more than 100 former senators, representatives and governors is committed to standing together to speak out on the issue of money in politics. As multiple polls indicate, ReFormers represent the concerns of nine out of ten Americans on this issue. We will enhance the work done by other reform organizations by pressuring candidates and current elected officials and supporting reform efforts at the state and local level. We will help make money in politics a top issue in 2016 and support a bipartisan groundswell of action for urgent reform at all levels of government.

As former members of Congress and governors, we have participated on the front lines of our campaign finance system, We know first-hand the price we all pay for a political system dominated by money. We support the following solutions:

- Disclosure and Transparency - Create immediate disclosure of political giving and spending and end "dark money."
- Effective Enforcement - Depoliticize the Federal Election Commission and empower it to enforce the law.
- Lobbying and Money - Break the connection between lobbying and campaign contributions and reduce conflicts of interest.
- Innovation in the States - Intensify state and local efforts to pass laws that improve civic participation and strengthen the role of small political donors.
- The Courts - Forge a new jurisprudence that reasserts the authority of Congress to pass laws that define and regulate the role of money in federal elections and pass a constitutional amendment to ensure for future generations that voters, not just major donors, matter most in politics.

Many times in the past two centuries, our democracy has required us to step boldly to its defense. We Americans have always risen to the challenge. The ReFormers are uniquely poised to take advantage of this historic moment to unite Americans in reclaiming our right to self-government the way it was intended by the Founders.

For more information please visit https://www.issueone.org/reformers/.