



Jaime Harrison
Chair
Democratic National Committee

Dear Jaime,

The Democratic leadership has, appropriately, condemned Republican "dark money" super PACs which spend huge amounts of money to elect their right-wing candidates. As you know, this dark money from wealthy individuals undermines American democracy and gives extraordinary power to the handful of billionaires who contribute to these super PACs. That is why almost all Democrats are united in the belief that the disastrous *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision should be overturned, and that is why we introduced as the as first major piece of legislation from this Congress (H.R.1/S.1) a robust effort to take on the influence of big money in politics.

I am concerned, however, that I have not heard any criticism from Democratic leaders about the many millions of dollars in dark money being spent by super PACs that are now attempting to buy Democratic primaries. The goal of this billionaire funded effort is to crush the candidacies of a number of progressive women of color who are running for Congress.

A super PAC is a super PAC, whether it is funded by Republican billionaires or Democratic billionaires. Dark money is dark money, whether it is funded by Republican billionaires or Democratic billionaires. There is no question but that the continuation of super PAC money in Democratic primaries will demoralize the Democratic base and alienate potential Democratic voters from the political process.

I am writing to you today to demand that the Democratic National Committee make it clear that super PAC money is not welcome in Democratic primaries. I believe the Party should make a public statement about our values and simultaneously consider actions that punish candidates who refuse to adhere to this principle. Let Democratic candidates compete with each other based on their ideas and grassroots support, not on the kind of billionaire super PAC money they can attract. Let us try to create a Democratic Party which is truly democratic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bernie Sanders".

Bernie Sanders