**Resolution Supporting State and Federal Legislation to Provide Greater Transparency**

**in Political Donations and Limit the Influence of Money in Politics**

WHEREAS, recent changes in funding and disclosure rules for national, state and local political elections have degraded the goals of the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, a recent decision by the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) now allows an infusion of previously prohibited out-of-state money to influence local and state elections, new legislation is now required to prohibit such funding from circumventing Massachusetts state law; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to restore voter confidence in our democracy, a grassroots movement known as "Represent.Us" is working for legislative reforms to reduce the opportunity for corruption

within the political system in our country by supporting a legislative reform bill known as the "American Anti-Corruption Act" (the Act); and

WHEREAS, the Act targets bribery by preventing lobbyists from donating to politicians and influencing policymaking; ends secret money by mandating full transparency; enables citizens to fund elections; closes the revolving door between Congress and lobbying firms; and enhances the power of the Federal Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, this national organization’s local chapter, Represent.US Western Mass, sought and promoted an advisory referendum; specifically, in the Hampshire/Franklin State Senate District (currently held by Stan Rosenberg) to build support for this initiative; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2014, the citizens of the above-mentioned district were given the opportunity to be heard on this topic through the above advisory referendum where the question received 84 percent aggregate support across the entire district, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the citizens of the Town of Shutesbury, Massachusetts that we support tough new anti-corruption laws to close loopholes in Massachusetts’ campaign finance regulations that currently allows unregulated out-of-state money to infiltrate state and local elections; and we support the goals outlined in the American Anti-Corruption Act to remove the corrupting influence of money on our political system. The Act prohibits politicians from taking campaign money from special interest groups including private industries and unions; increases transparency for campaign funding; empowers all voters through a tax rebate voucher to contribute to the candidates they support; prohibits representatives and senior staff from all lobbying activity for five years once they leave office; and places limits on superPACs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the citizens of the Town of Shutesbury implores our elected representatives in Boston, State Senator Rosenberg and Rep. Kulik and in Washington, Sen. Edward Markey and Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Rep. McGovern (or their successors) to lead this effort to enact these initiatives in Massachusetts and in the U.S. Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Town of Shutesbury is hereby directed to give notice to the above representatives by sending a certified copy of this resolution to each of them.

**This resolution passed unanimously at the Shutesbury Annual Town Meeting, May 6, 2017**

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Mosher

Shutesbury Town Clerk