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GOP blocks State Sen. Rachel Zenzinger's Bill to Expose Secret Spending

Denver, CO -- Three Republican Colorado State Senators overruled their Democratic counterparts on a committee vote that ultimately allows the continued, unlimited secret spending in state legislative races.

State Senator Rachel Zenzinger's House Bills 17-1261 and -1262 would have closed campaign loopholes, addressing the problem of campaign mailers and other advertisements that dodge scrutiny by avoiding a handful of "magic words." Under current law, attack mailers that omit specific words such as "vote" or "elect" can hide their sources and funding.

Senator Zenzinger was among the targets of unaccountable smears in the 2016 election, and she has led the charge for greater campaign transparency, along with bill sponsors KC Becker and Jeff Bridges in the House of Representatives. HB17-1261 would have closed the dark money loophole, and HB17-1262 would have forced disclosures of those expenses earlier in the

campaign.

Both bills were killed Wednesday in the Colorado Senate's State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee by a vote of 3-2.

The result was not a surprise, said Senator Zenzinger.

“My goal was to shine a light on the problem of dark money, just as I promised during the campaign,” she said. **“I know** first-hand how the corruption of secret dollars slants the playing field and distracts voters from common-**sense policy.**”

She added, **“The next step is to take this issue to the neighborhoods and start** a real conversation about who should influence our elections, and whose **interests our Senators should really represent.”**

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