

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2478

To require that candidates who receive campaign financing from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund agree not to participate in multicandidate forums that exclude candidates who have broad-based public support.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 1997

Mr. PAUL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Oversight

A BILL

To require that candidates who receive campaign financing from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund agree not to participate in multicandidate forums that exclude candidates who have broad-based public support.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Freedom Debate Act
5 of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT THAT CANDIDATES WHO RECEIVE**
2 **CAMPAIGN FINANCING FROM THE PRESI-**
3 **DENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND AGREE**
4 **NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTICANDIDATE**
5 **FORUMS THAT EXCLUDE CANDIDATES WITH**
6 **BROAD-BASED PUBLIC SUPPORT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the requirements
8 under subtitle H of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
9 in order to be eligible to receive payments from the Presi-
10 dential Election Campaign Fund, a candidate shall agree
11 in writing not to appear in any multicandidate forum with
12 respect to the election involved unless the following indi-
13 viduals are invited to participate in the multicandidate
14 forum:

15 (1) Each other eligible candidate under such
16 subtitle.

17 (2) Each individual who is qualified in at least
18 40 States for the ballot for the office involved.

19 (b) ENFORCEMENT.—If the Federal Election Com-
20 mission determines that a candidate—

21 (1) has received payments from the Presidential
22 Election Campaign Fund; and

23 (2) has violated the agreement referred to in
24 subsection (a);

25 the candidate shall pay to the Treasury an amount equal
26 to the amount of the payments so made.

1 (c) DEFINITION.—As used in this Act, the term
2 “multicandidate forum” means a meeting—

3 (1) consisting of a moderated reciprocal discus-
4 sion of issues among candidates for the same office;
5 and

6 (2) to which any other person has access in per-
7 son or through an electronic medium.

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