

[Rollcall Vote No. 197 Leg.]
YEAS—43

Allard	Frist	Nickles
Allen	Gramm	Roberts
Bennett	Grassley	Santorum
Bond	Gregg	Sessions
Brownback	Hagel	Shelby
Bunning	Hatch	Smith (NH)
Burns	Helms	Smith (OR)
Campbell	Hutchinson	Stevens
Cochran	Hutchison	Thomas
Collins	Inhofe	Thompson
Craig	Kyl	Thurmond
Crapo	Lott	Voinovich
Domenici	Lugar	Warner
Ensign	McConnell	
Enzi	Murkowski	

NAYS—57

Akaka	Dodd	Lieberman
Baucus	Dorgan	Lincoln
Bayh	Durbin	McCain
Biden	Edwards	Mikulski
Bingaman	Feingold	Miller
Boxer	Feinstein	Murray
Breaux	Fitzgerald	Nelson (FL)
Byrd	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Cantwell	Harkin	Reed
Carnahan	Hollings	Reid
Carper	Inouye	Rockefeller
Chafee	Jeffords	Sarbanes
Cleland	Johnson	Schumer
Clinton	Kennedy	Snowe
Conrad	Kerry	Specter
Corzine	Kohl	Stabenow
Daschle	Landrieu	Torricelli
Dayton	Leahy	Wellstone
DeWine	Levin	Wyden

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. KENNEDY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we were in the process of trying to propound a unanimous consent request, but all the parties are not here. We will do that at 2:15.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to exceed 30 minutes with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Wisconsin is recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

COLORADO REPUBLICAN CASE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, on April 2 of this year, the Senate voted overwhelmingly to pass the McCain-Feingold bill and ban soft money. Even before the roll was called on final passage and 59 Senators voted “aye,” the Senate’s foremost opponent of reform declared that he relished the opportunity to bring a constitutional challenge to the bill. “You’re looking at the plaintiff,” the Senator from Kentucky announced.

Opponents of reform have consistently expressed confidence that the courts will strike down our efforts to clean up the campaign finance system. They regularly opine that the McCain-Feingold bill is unconstitutional, and, despite clear signs to the contrary in the Court’s opinion last term in *Nixon v. Shrink Missouri Government PAC*, express great certainty that the Supreme Court will never allow our bill to take effect.

Well, in its decision yesterday morning in *FEC v. Colorado Republican Federal Campaign Committee*, the Court again dumped cold water on that certainty. The court held that the coordinated party spending limits now in the law—the so-called “441a(d) limits”—are constitutional. It ruled that the coordinated spending limits are justified as a way to prevent circumvention of the \$1,000 per election limits on contributions to candidates that the Court upheld in the landmark Buckley v. Valeo decision in 1976. In my view, the decision makes it even more clear that the soft money ban in the McCain-Feingold bill will withstand a constitutional challenge.

The first thing to note about the Court’s ruling is that it reaffirms the distinction the Court has drawn between contributions and expenditures and the greater latitude that the Court has given Congress in the case of restraints on contributions. The Court noted that the law treats expenditures that are coordinated with candidates as contributions, and the Court has upheld contribution limits in previous cases with that understanding. It agreed with the FEC that spending by a party coordinated with a candidate is functionally equivalent to a contribution to the candidate, and that the right to make unlimited coordinated expenditures would open the door for donors to use contributions to the party to avoid the limits that apply to contributions to candidates.

The Court rejected the Colorado Republican Party’s argument that party spending is due special constitutional protection. Instead, the Court found that the parties are in the same position as other political actors who are subject to contribution limits. Those actors cannot coordinate their spending with candidates. The Court noted that under current law and the Court’s previous decision in the first Colorado case, the parties are better off than other political actors in that they can make independent expenditures and also make significant, but limited, coordinated expenditures. The limits on coordinated expenditures have not prevented the parties from organizing to elect candidates and generating large sums of money to efficiently get out their message, the Court noted.

After determining that limits on party coordinated spending should be analyzed under the same standard as contribution limits on other political actors, the Court had little trouble in deciding that there was ample justification for those limits based on the need to avoid circumvention of the

contribution limits in the federal election laws. It pointed to substantial evidence of circumvention already in the current system, and the near certainty that removing the 441a(d) limits would lead to additional circumvention. The Court held:

[T]here is good reason to expect that a party’s right of unlimited coordinated spending would attract increased contributions to parties to finance exactly that kind of spending. Coordinated expenditures of money donated to a party are tailor-made to undermine contribution limits. Therefore, the choice here is not, as in *Buckley* and *Colorado I*, between a limit on pure contributions and pure expenditures. The choice is between limiting contributions and limiting expenditures whose special value as expenditures is also the source of their power to corrupt. Congress is entitled to its choice.

So, Mr. President, I am pleased that the Court upheld Congress’s right to limit the coordinated spending of the parties. But even more than that, I am pleased at the way that the Court looked at the constitutional issues in the case and the arguments of the parties. The Court’s analysis demonstrates an understanding of the real world of money and politics that gives me great confidence that it will uphold the soft money ban in the McCain-Feingold bill against an inevitable constitutional challenge.

As my partner and colleague, Senator MCCAIN, pointed out to me prior to my taking the floor, of course this decision was about hard money; but if you really read it, it isn’t so much about hard money or soft money, it is just about money and the corrupting influence it has on our political process.

For example, the Court noted that “the money the parties spend comes from contributors with their own interests.” And the Court recognized that those contributors give money to parties in an attempt to influence the actions of candidates. The Court said:

Parties are thus necessarily the instruments of some contributors whose object is not to support the party’s message to elect party candidates across the board, but rather to support a specific candidate for the sake of a position on one, narrow issue, or even to support any candidate who will be obliged to the contributors.

This is precisely the point that we who have fought so hard to ban soft money have been making for years. These contributions are designed to influence the federal officeholders who raise them for the parties, and ultimately, to influence legislation or executive policy. The Court shows that it understands this use of contributions to political parties when it states:

Parties thus perform functions more complex than simply electing candidates; whether they like it or not, they act as agents for spending on behalf of those who seek to produce obligated officeholders.

The Court also recognized that the party fundraising, even of limited hard money, provides opportunities for large donors to get special access to lawmakers. The Court states:

Even under present law substantial donations turn the parties into matchmakers whose special meetings and receptions give the donors the chance to get their points across to the candidates.

In a footnote, the Court notes evidence in the record of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee establishing exclusive clubs for the most generous donors.

These special clubs and receptions are even more prevalent in the world of soft money fundraising. Both parties sell access to their elected officials for high dollar soft money contributions. This week a Republican fundraiser featuring the President and the Vice President is expected to raise over \$20 million.

The corrupting influence of soft money, or at least the appearance of corruption created by the extraordinary sums raised by party leaders and federal officeholders and candidates, is an argument for the constitutionality of a ban on soft money that those who support the McCain-Feingold bill would have made even if the Colorado II case had come out the other way. But the Court's decision itself is solid support for another independent reason that the soft money ban is constitutional.

Corporations and unions are prohibited from contributing money in connection with federal elections. And individuals are subject to strict limits on their contributions to candidates and parties. The soft money loophole allows those limits to be evaded. This is not just a theoretical possibility, as in the Colorado case. There is a massive avoidance of the federal election laws going on today, as there has been for over a decade. The evidence of this is overwhelming. Soft money is being raised by candidates for the parties, and it is being spent in a whole variety of ways to influence federal elections. In recent years, the parties have used soft money to run ads that are virtually indistinguishable from campaign ads run by the candidates. That is what is going on in the real world.

A soft money ban will end the circumvention of these crucial limits in the law, limits that date back to 1907 in the case of corporations, 1947 in the case of unions, and 1974 in the case of individuals. The Supreme Court's decision yesterday tells us that Congress can constitutionally act to end that evasion.

The remaining question, of course, is whether we will do it. Our vote in this body on April 2 was the first step. When the House returns from the July 4th recess it will take up campaign finance reform, and I am hopeful that it will act decisively to pass a bill that is largely similar to the McCain-Feingold bill. Then it will be up to the Senate to act quickly and send the bill to President Bush for his signature. We are getting close, Mr. President, to finally cleaning up the corrupt soft money decision. The Supreme Court's decision yesterday, unexpected as it was to

many in the Senate and in the legal community, is a major boost for our efforts. The Court has spoken. Now Congress must act.

I yield the remainder of the time under my control to the Senator from New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. CLINTON. I thank the Chair. Mr. President, I add my thanks and gratitude to my good friend from Wisconsin. He has been a leader on this whole issue of campaign finance reform for so many years. He started as a young boy, and it has taken most of his life. I think progress is being made from a most unlikely source. I applaud the continued perseverance and commitment of the Senator.

HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, we are in the midst of this very important debate about a Patients' Bill of Rights. I am hoping that before we break for the Fourth of July recess, the doctors, nurses, patients, and families of America will have the relief for which we have all waited for a very long time: making it clear doctors should be making our health care decisions; that nurses, not bookkeepers, should be at our bedsides; and that the Patients' Bill of Rights will be a reality.

I rise today because we have to consider our broad needs for health care not only in our country but around the world. Today as we meet and debate a Patients' Bill of Rights to make sure that Americans have access to the best health care in the entire world, there are millions of people around the world who do not have that opportunity or that right. I speak specifically of those who are suffering from HIV/AIDS.

We should be supporting vigorously the United Nations General Assembly on Meeting the Global HIV/AIDS Challenge and urging them to consider creative tools, such as debt relief, in efforts to combat HIV/AIDS.

As the general assembly is meeting in special session in New York to try to come up with a strategic blueprint for fighting HIV/AIDS worldwide, it is imperative that we in America appreciate that this worldwide epidemic has nowhere near crested. Africa is ravaged. It has just begun to affect India, China, and Russia. This is an epidemic of historic proportions, and it needs a response that is historically appropriate.

Almost 60 million people worldwide have been affected by HIV/AIDS, and over 20 million men, women, and children have died. If current trends continue, 50 percent or more of all 15-year-olds in the most severely affected countries will die of AIDS or AIDS-related illnesses.

We are in the middle of summer vacation. We have many families and young people visiting our Capitol. We are always so happy to have them here and for them to take a few minutes to see their Government in action, but it

is just chilling to imagine American 15-year-olds facing bleak futures as orphans or victims because they were born to infected mothers.

Every American should be concerned with what is going on beyond our borders. We should also be concerned because when it comes to disease today, there are no borders. People get on jet planes, people travel all over the world. There is no disease that is confined to any geographic area any longer. We have to recognize that for us to worry about the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa and Asia is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to protect ourselves and to protect our children.

It is also important to recognize that the groundbreaking drug treatments that are keeping people with HIV/AIDS alive today are not available to those who suffer elsewhere. Less than 1 percent of HIV-infected Africans, for example, have access to life-extending antiretroviral medications. The challenges facing us are great, and we should work together to combat this global emergency.

I strongly support the formation of a global fund for infectious diseases such as AIDS, but also including tuberculosis and malaria. We are seeing tuberculosis and malaria in our own country. We are seeing the spread of malaria, which used to be confined to a tropical belt, beginning to move northwards, in part, I believe, because of global warming and desertification, so the mosquitos can travel further north and find hosts who traditionally have not suffered from malaria.

Tuberculosis is becoming epidemic in many parts of the world. In Russia, drug-resistant tuberculosis is a major killer.

I believe we should have a global fund to combat these infectious diseases, and I am very pleased the United States, private donors, and some other nations have taken steps to address the need for money as articulated by Secretary General Kofi Annan. We need between \$7 billion to \$10 billion annually. It is my hope that through a public-private partnership we are able to continue to invest in promoting prevention, treatment, and eventually a vaccine to prevent this devastating disease.

I am old enough to remember polio as a scourge that affected my life. I can remember my mother not letting me go swimming in the local swimming pool because of polio. I remember as though it were yesterday when the announcement of a vaccine was made. What a sense of relief that spread through my house and all of our neighbors, and we all lined up to get that shot we thought would protect us from what had been, up until then, such a serious, overhanging cloud in the lives of young people, as well as older people.

HIV/AIDS extracts a severe economic toll on nations worldwide. The disease spreads so rapidly. No one is immune from it. It has grave consequences for societies, and it threatens the interest