

MODEL CONCEPTS FOR APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT

In order for our country and its governments (national, state, and local) to operate well and at their highest potential, it is imperative to maintain checks and balances, transparency, and accountability throughout the systems that exist. Proper principles help ensure that the process works well and stops power from centralizing in any one position, person, entity, or location.

Concept #4 **Transparency on Bill Promoters**

Background

All proposed legislation originates as an idea from a person somewhere. While a representative will, at times, propose their own ideas, a significant amount of the time they are proposing another person's ideas and trying to pass a bill that was proposed, drafted, or designed by another person or group.

Knowing the identity of individuals and groups who are working to pass legislation is a must to understand the full scope of what the legislation seeks to accomplish and why it is being proposed.

Further, individuals can communicate with drafting attorneys and help direct what language is used in the legislation. Appropriate government needs to be open and transparent on these issues. Transparency helps connect dots and understand money, influence, connections, and power as each of these permeate the political realm.

Model Concepts

- Every bill or proposed legislation should have to disclose the “bill promoters”, or those who have requested that the bill be introduced. “Bill promoters” that need to be disclosed should include:
 - The individuals or groups who are the individuals or groups behind the bill;
 - The individuals or groups who communicate with the representative(s) on the bill prior to it being made public;
 - Any individuals or groups who communicate with the attorneys who draft the bill; and
 - Any person, group, or company paying or communicating with any of the above bill promoters on the subject of the bill.