

My name is Richard Robinson. I am here as Director of Let's Save Our Democracy to urge the speedy passage of S.365, a bill from Senator Barrett that would require presidential candidates to release their tax returns in order to appear on the ballot in Massachusetts.

We believe the fabric of our democracy was damaged by the 2016 presidential election, and in particular by the refusal of one major party candidate to release his tax returns.

Voters have a right to know the financial entanglements of anyone asking to be the single most powerful person in the entire world. Standing up for that right is the obligation of all of us who are concerned about the future of our democracy.

At least 19 other states, literally from Maine to Hawaii, are currently considering similar legislation. We are a small state, but this bill can allow us to have a major effect on restoring financial transparency to presidential elections.

S.365 currently has more than 50 co-sponsors. We earnestly look forward to co-sponsorship from Republican legislators as well.

The principle of presidential tax transparency is not a partisan issue, except in that a single, nominally Republican, candidate chose to trample on it. It is time for every state, and this state, both Democrats and Republicans, to say "Enough. Let's Save Our Democracy."

