



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 24, 2024

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: *Criminal Referral Regarding Potentially Illegal Campaign Contributions*

Dear Attorney General Garland,

The Texas Attorney General's office is investigating circumstances surrounding highly suspicious campaign contributions made through political committee online contribution platforms. That investigation has uncovered alarming evidence showing that anonymous actors are systematically making contributions through ActBlue's platform in the name of other people. This conduct appears to be criminal in a number of ways, including under 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (wire fraud); 18 U.S.C. § 1028 (identity theft); and 52 U.S.C. § 30122 (making contributions in the name of another).

On Monday, October 21, my office transmitted a Petition for Rulemaking to the Federal Election Commission regarding these findings. That petition requests that the FEC adopt rules that would limit bad actors' ability to engage in this conduct going forward. But it is DOJ's responsibility to investigate and prosecute bad acts that have already occurred. In order to facilitate your potential investigations and prosecutions, I am transmitting with this letter a copy of the Petition.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken Paxton".

Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas