

## Tom Barrett (MI-07) Red Box Backup – Can’t Be Trusted

### Tom Barrett Can’t Be Trusted To Look Out For Michiganders

*Tom Barrett can’t be trusted to look out for Michiganders. Nearly 90% of Barrett’s contributions in the state legislature are from Political Action Committees (PACs) including from corporate PACs. He’s voted against allowing drug companies to be held accountable when they sell defective and dangerous drugs, even dangerous and abused opioids like OxyContin. The DeVos family, notorious anti-public education activists, were Barrett’s largest individual donors in his legislative career and gave him nearly \$50,000 in one day in this campaign. In October 2021 Barrett sponsored a bill enshrining the family’s key policy objective, a voucher program that would divert public money to private institutions.*

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**2014 – 2022: 87 Percent Of Barrett’s Funding Came From Big Corporations, PACs, And The Republican Party Establishment.**

#### 2014 – 2022: Donations To Barrett’s Campaigns By Category

Donor Category	Amount		Average Donation
	\$	%	
Individuals	\$260,893.78	12.86%	\$219.42
PAC/Committee/Corporations	\$1,767,086.15	87.14%	\$2,045.24
Total	\$2,027,979.93	100.00%	

[Michigan Secretary of State, Campaign Finance Database, accessed 2/10/22]

**Barrett’s Top Ten Interest Group Donors Included The Michigan Insurance Coalition, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, The Realtors PAC Of Michigan, The Farm Bureau PAC, The Automobile Club PAC, The DeVos Family, AmeriPAC, Exelon PAC, BCBSM PAC, And The Michigan Beer And Wine Wholesalers PAC.**

#### 2014 – 2021: Barrett Top Donor Groups

Group	Amount
MI Insurance Coalition	\$40,000.00
Michigan Chamber PAC/MI Chamber PAC	\$37,800.00
Realtors PAC Of MI	\$35,550.00
DeVos Family	\$30,000.00
Farm Bureau PAC	\$28,650.00
Automobile Club PAC	\$23,000.00
AmeriPAC	\$16,750.00
Exelon PAC	\$13,750.00
BCBSM PAC	\$12,000.00
MI Beer And Wine Wholesalers PAC	\$11,900.00

[Michigan Secretary of State, Contribution Analysis Search, accessed [1/11/22](#)]

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**March 15, 2022: Barrett Voted Against An Amendment To A Bill That Would Have Prevented The Bill From Taking Effect Unless SB 961 Was Enacted Into Law.** In March 2022, Barrett voted against: “amendment: 1. Amend page 6, following line 7, by inserting: ‘Enacting section 1. This act does not take effect unless the Senate Bill No. 961 of the 101st Legislature is enacted into law.’” [Michigan Senate, Roll Call No. 82, [3/15/22](#)]

**Michigan’s Senate Bill 961 Would Repeal A Provision Of The Product Liability Act That Provided Near Absolute Immunity From Lawsuits For Defective Or Dangerous Products.** “Senate Bill 961 will repeal a provision of the Product Liability Act, a law Michigan adopted in 1995, that provides immunity for drug manufacturers. By increasing accountability, Sen. Irwin’s bill will also improve the safety of drugs. [...] Under Michigan’s current Product Liability Act, a drug is not considered defective or unreasonably dangerous, and the manufacturer and seller cannot be liable in a product liability suit if that drug was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It is the nation’s strictest product liability law and grants pharmaceutical companies near absolute immunity from lawsuits.” [Office Of State Sen. Jeff Irwin, Press Release, [3/18/22](#)]

**Detroit News: Michigan’s Product Liability Act Granted Pharmaceutical Companies “Nearly Absolute Immunity From Lawsuits Filed By Consumers And Has Kept The State Of Michigan From Suing Over Dangerous Or Deadly Drugs.”** “A one-of-a-kind law is likely to prevent Michigan communities and the state from winning lawsuits to reclaim the millions of dollars they’ve spent fighting the opioid epidemic, legal experts say. The 1995 Michigan Product Liability Act grants pharmaceutical companies nearly absolute immunity from lawsuits filed by consumers and has kept the state of Michigan from suing over dangerous or deadly drugs. Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette was then a state senator who co-sponsored the bill, but now says he is open to reconsidering the law.” [Detroit News, [6/15/18](#)]

**The DeVos Family, Notorious Anti-Public Education Activists, Were Barrett’s Largest Individual Donors In His Legislative Career And Gave Him Nearly \$50,000 In One Day In This Campaign. In October 2021 Barrett Sponsored A Bill Enshrining The Family’s Key Policy Objective, A Voucher Program That Would Divert Public Money To Private Institutions, And In February 2022 Barrett Joined Betsy DeVos In Supporting A Petition Drive To Force Another Vote On The Bill**

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**The DeVos Family Contributed \$400,000 To The Let MI Kids Learn Committee, Which Was Circulating Petitions To Create A Voucher-Like School Choice Program.** “Two decades after leading a failed attempt to create a school voucher system in Michigan, former U.S. Dept of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is backing a new plan to create a voucher-like student scholarship program that critics contend will undermine public education. DeVos on Wednesday helped launch the Let MI Kids Learn petition drive, which seeks to create state tax credits for individual or corporate donations to scholarship funds that would help qualifying Michigan families pay for private school tuition or other educational expenses, including home-school curriculum materials. [...] DeVos and other family members in December contributed a combined \$400,000 to the Let MI Kids Learn committee, which is circulating two related petitions, according to a state disclosure filing. They also donated a combined \$671,000 to Michigan House and Senate Republican campaign committees late last year.” [Bridge Michigan, [2/2/22](#)]

**2014 – 2021: The DeVos Family Gave Barrett’s Campaigns \$30,000.** [Michigan Secretary of State, Contribution Analysis Search, accessed [1/11/22](#)]

<b>2014 – 2021: DeVos Family Contributions To Barrett</b>		
Contributor	Date	Amount
DANIEL DEVOS	7/21/18	\$2,000.00
MARIA DEVOS	7/21/18	\$2,000.00
SUZANNE DEVOS	7/21/18	\$2,000.00
DOUGLAS DEVOS	7/21/18	\$2,000.00
DICK DEVOS JR.	7/21/18	\$2,000.00
RICHARD DEVOS SR.	7/21/18	\$2,000.00
ELISABETH DEVOS	9/29/14	\$1,000.00
DICK DEVOS JR.	9/29/14	\$1,000.00
HELEN DEVOS	9/29/14	\$1,000.00
RICHARD DEVOS SR.	9/29/14	\$1,000.00
DANIEL DEVOS	9/29/14	\$1,000.00

DICK DEVOS JR.	12/31/15	\$1,000.00
DANIEL DEVOS	12/31/15	\$1,000.00
HELEN DEVOS	12/31/15	\$1,000.00
RICHARD DEVOS SR.	12/31/15	\$1,000.00
ELISABETH DEVOS	12/31/15	\$1,000.00
PAMELLA DEVOS	12/31/15	\$1,000.00
DOUGLAS DEVOS	9/29/14	\$1,000.00
MARIA DEVOS	9/29/14	\$1,000.00
SUZANNE DEVOS	9/29/14	\$1,000.00
DOUGLAS DEVOS	12/31/15	\$1,000.00
MARIA DEVOS	12/31/15	\$1,000.00
SUZANNE DEVOS	12/31/15	\$1,000.00
PAMELLA DEVOS	9/29/14	\$1,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>

[Michigan Secretary of State, Contribution Analysis Search, accessed [1/11/22](#)]

**2014-2021: The DeVos Family Was The Top Non-PAC Donor Group To Barrett's Campaigns.**

<b>2014 – 2021: Barrett Top Donor Groups</b>	
Group	Amount
MI Insurance Coalition	\$40,000.00
Michigan Chamber PAC/MI Chamber PAC	\$37,800.00
Realtors PAC Of MI	\$35,550.00
DeVos Family	\$30,000.00
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[Michigan Secretary of State, Contribution Analysis Search, accessed [1/11/22](#)]

**Mar. 11, 2022: Members Of The DeVos Family Contributed \$46,400 To Barrett's Congressional Campaign.**

<b>March 11, 2022 DeVos Family Donations To Barrett</b>					
Donor	Recipient	Election	State	Receipt date	Amount
Ehmann, Steve	Tom Barrett For Congress	General	MI	3/11/2022	\$2,900.00
Ehmann, Steve	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	(\$2,900.00)
Ehmann, Steve	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	\$5,800.00
DeVos, Suzanne	Tom Barrett For Congress	General	MI	3/11/2022	\$2,900.00
DeVos, Suzanne	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	(\$2,900.00)
DeVos, Suzanne	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	\$5,800.00
DeVos, Richard	Tom Barrett For Congress	General	MI	3/11/2022	\$2,900.00
DeVos, Richard	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	(\$2,900.00)
DeVos, Richard	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	\$5,800.00
DeVos, Pamella	Tom Barrett For Congress	General	MI	3/11/2022	\$2,900.00
DeVos, Pamella	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	(\$2,900.00)
DeVos, Pamella	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	\$5,800.00
DeVos, Maria	Tom Barrett For Congress	General	MI	3/11/2022	\$2,900.00
DeVos, Maria	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	(\$2,900.00)
DeVos, Maria	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	\$5,800.00
DeVos, Doug	Tom Barrett For Congress	General	MI	3/11/2022	\$2,900.00

DeVos, Doug	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	(\$2,900.00)
DeVos, Doug	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	\$5,800.00
DeVos, Daniel	Tom Barrett For Congress	General	MI	3/11/2022	\$2,900.00
DeVos, Daniel	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	(\$2,900.00)
DeVos, Daniel	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	\$5,800.00
DeVos, Betsy	Tom Barrett For Congress	General	MI	3/11/2022	\$2,900.00
DeVos, Betsy	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	(\$2,900.00)
DeVos, Betsy	Tom Barrett For Congress	Primary	MI	3/11/2022	\$5,800.00
					<b>\$46,400.00</b>

[FEC, Tom Barrett For Congress, [4/15/22](#)]

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**In October 2021 Barrett Sponsored A Bill Enshrining The Family’s Key Policy Objective, A Voucher Program That Would Divert Public Money To Private Institutions**

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**Oct. 2021: Barrett Sponsored A Bill Package To Provide Tax Credits To Residents Who Contributed To A Scholarship Program For Students To Use On Alternative Or Supplemental Education, Including Nonpublic Schools.** “The GOP-led Michigan House and Senate are advancing bills Tuesday that would provide tax credits to residents who contributed to a scholarship program for students to use on alternative or supplemental education, including nonpublic schools. The bills, introduced last Thursday, passed quickly Tuesday morning through House and Senate education committees. The full Senate chamber approved the legislation 20-16 later Tuesday morning, and the House voted 55-48 Tuesday afternoon a separate identical package. [...] Critics argue the scholarship program amounts to an unconstitutional voucher program, while supporters maintain the alternative education opportunities are essential after a year of remote learning. The Michigan Constitution bans spending public money directly or indirectly on private schools. ‘After a year unlike any other, I think it’s time we rethink education,’ said Rep. Lana Theis, a Brighton Republican who sponsored the bills alongside Sen. Tom Barrett, R-Charlotte. ‘... There is no reason our kids can’t be among the most successful in the country but doing things in the same way over and over again will not lead to success,’ Theis said.” [Detroit News, [10/19/21](#)]