

American Action Network Has Been Funded By Corporate Contributions Such As PhRMA

SUMMARY: American Action Network “has been one of the most prominent nonprofits for funneling dark money.” While it is likewise unclear exactly who funds AAN, it is clear that AAN receives a significant amount of money from special interests.

- Between 2009 and 2017, AAN received \$12 million from Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), the top lobbying group for the pharmaceutical industry.
- Over the same timeframe, AAN received \$3.3 million from the health insurer Aetna.
- In 2017 alone, AAN also received a combined \$6.8 million between contributions from Business Roundtable and the Retail Industry Leaders Association. AAN has also received considerable funding from oil and gas industry groups such as American Natural Gas Alliance and American Petroleum Institute, receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars from 2010-2012 alone.
- PhRMA was reported to have contributed \$4.5 million to AAN in 2019, making it their top political recipient.
- AAN has yet to release info on their 2020 spending to the FEC.

American Action Network Received Millions Of Dollars From Special Interests

American Action Network Has Not Revealed Its Contributions For The 2020 Cycle

American Action Network Did Not Disclose Its 2020 Spending To The FEC. “AAN, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit aligned with Republican House leadership that does not disclose its donors, did not disclose any of its spending to the FEC during the 2020 election cycle.” [Open Secrets, [5/13/21](#)]

Lack Of Disclosure Came As The Group Spent Over 49 Million Into Political Ads And Made \$26 Million In Contributions To Super PAC Congressional Leadership Fund. “American Action Network, Republican House leadership’s 501(c)(4) nonprofit that has disclosed none of its donors or spending to the FEC, has poured over \$9 million into political advertising boosting GOP congressional candidates and more than \$26 million into political contributions to the Congressional Leadership Fund, House Republicans’ super PAC that shared staff and resources with American Action Network.” [Open Secrets, [10/30/20](#)]

American Action Network Received Millions Of Dollars In Contributions From PhRMA, Top Lobbying Group For Pharmaceutical Industry

2019: PhRMA (Pharmaceutical Research And Manufacturers Of America) Contributed \$4.5 Million To AAN In 2019, Making IT PhRMA’s Top Political Contributions

PhRMA Contributed \$4.5 Million To AAN In 2019, Making It Their Top Political Recipient. “The American Action Network is pouring millions of dollars into a TV, digital advertising and phone campaign attacking House Democrats’ proposal to lower prescription drug costs. [...] The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, the largest U.S. pharmaceutical trade association, gives millions of dollars to AAN annually and donated \$4.5 million in 2019 — PhRMA’s top political donation that year.” [Open Secrets, [5/13/21](#)]

2009-2017: AAN Received \$12 Million In Contributions From Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers Of America

2009 To 2017: AAN Received \$12 Million In Contributions From Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers Of America. “AAN has never publicly disclosed who funds its operation but its tax filings and a report by the nonpartisan organization Issue One gives clues as to how it goes about raking in the cash. The tax document shows that the nonprofit often uses a firm called LPC 25 to help raise funds. [...] An Issue One investigation identified 23 donors that represent only 13% of its funding from 2009 to 2017, including \$12 million from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, \$4 million from the Republican Jewish Coalition and \$3.3 million from health insurer Aetna. A list of AAN donors constructed by MapLight, a nonpartisan research organization that tracks the influence of money in politics, shows that in 2017 the Business Roundtable gave \$6 million and the Retail Industry Leaders Association contributed \$800,000.” [CNBC, [5/23/19](#)]

- **Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers (PhRMA) Of America Were Top Pharmaceutical Industry Lobbying Group.** “In 2010, before the Affordable Care Act was passed by Congress, the pharmaceutical industry’s top lobbying group was a very public supporter of the measure. It even helped fund a multimillion-dollar TV ad campaign backing passage of the law. But last year, when Republicans mounted an aggressive effort to repeal and replace the law, the group made a point of staying outside the fray. ‘We’ve not taken a position,’ said Stephen Ubl, head of the organization, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, known as PhRMA, in a March 2017 interview.” [Washington Post, [7/30/18](#)]

2016: American Action Network Received \$6.1 Million From Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers Of America, AAN’s Single Biggest Grant That Year

2016: PhRMA Contributed \$6.1 Million To AAN. “‘Urge him to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act now,’ one ad running in early 2017 advised viewers to tell their congressman. That and similar material (including robocalls) paid for by the American Action Network ran numerous times last year in 75 congressional districts. [...] PhRMA was one of AAN’s biggest donors the previous year, giving it \$6.1 million, federal regulatory filings show. And PhRMA had a substantial interest in the outcome of the repeal efforts. Among other actions, the GOP-backed health bill would have eliminated a federal fee paid by pharmaceutical companies, one estimated at \$28 billion over a decade.” [Washington Post, [7/30/18](#)]

- **Washington Post: “PhRMA’s \$6.1 Million, Unrestricted Donation To AAN Was Its Single-biggest Grant In 2016, Dwarfing Its \$130,000 Contribution To The Same Group The Year Before.”** “PhRMA’s \$6.1 million, unrestricted donation to AAN was its single-biggest grant in 2016, dwarfing its \$130,000 contribution to the same group the year before. Closely associated with House Republicans — AAN has a former Republican senator and two former Republican House members on its board — the group backed the failed GOP health bill intended to replace the Affordable Care Act. It also supported the successful Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which reduced corporate taxes by hundreds of billions of dollars over a decade.” [Washington Post, [7/30/18](#)]

2010-2014: American Action Network Received \$6,200,000 In Contributions From Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers Of America

2010: Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers Of America Contributed \$4.5 Million To American Action Network. [Opensecrets, Accessed [3/11/21](#)]

2012: Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers Of America Contributed \$1,575,000 To American Action Network. [Opensecrets, Accessed [3/11/21](#)]

2014: Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers Of America Contributed \$125,000 To American Action Network. [Opensecrets, Accessed [3/11/21](#)]

2009-2017: AAN Received \$3.3 Million From Health Insurer, Aetna

2009 To 2017: AAN Received \$3.3 Million In Contributions From Health Insurer, Aetna. “AAN has never publicly disclosed who funds its operation but its tax filings and a report by the nonpartisan organization Issue One gives clues as to how it goes about raking in the cash. The tax document shows that the nonprofit often uses a firm called LPC 25 to help raise funds. [...] An Issue One investigation identified 23 donors that represent only 13% of its funding from 2009 to 2017, including \$12 million from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, \$4 million from the Republican Jewish Coalition and \$3.3 million from health insurer Aetna. A list of AAN donors constructed by MapLight, a nonpartisan research organization that tracks the influence of money in politics, shows that in 2017 the Business Roundtable gave \$6 million and the Retail Industry Leaders Association contributed \$800,000.” [CNBC, [5/23/19](#)]

2010-2012: American Action Network Received \$285,000 In Contributions From Oil And Gas Industry Organizations

2010: American Natural Gas Alliance Contributed \$35,000 To American Action Network. [Opensecrets, Accessed [3/11/21](#)]

2012: American Petroleum Institute Contributed \$250,000 To American Action Network. [Opensecrets, Accessed [3/11/21](#)]

2017: AAN Received A Combined \$6.8 Million From Business Roundtable And Retail Industry Leaders Association

2017: AAN Received \$6 Million In Contributions From Business Roundtable. “AAN has never publicly disclosed who funds its operation but its tax filings and a report by the nonpartisan organization Issue One gives clues as to how it goes about raking in the cash. The tax document shows that the nonprofit often uses a firm called LPC 25 to help raise funds. [...] An Issue One investigation identified 23 donors that represent only 13% of its funding from 2009 to 2017, including \$12 million from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, \$4 million from the Republican Jewish Coalition and \$3.3 million from health insurer Aetna. A list of AAN donors constructed by MapLight, a nonpartisan research organization that tracks the influence of money in politics, shows that in 2017 the Business Roundtable gave \$6 million and the Retail Industry Leaders Association contributed \$800,000.” [CNBC, [5/23/19](#)]

2017: AAN Received \$800,000 In Contributions From Retail Industry Leaders Association. “AAN has never publicly disclosed who funds its operation but its tax filings and a report by the nonpartisan organization Issue One gives clues as to how it goes about raking in the cash. The tax document shows that the nonprofit often uses a firm called LPC 25 to help raise funds. [...] An Issue One investigation identified 23 donors that represent only 13% of its funding from 2009 to 2017, including \$12 million from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, \$4 million from the Republican Jewish Coalition and \$3.3 million from health insurer Aetna. A list of AAN donors constructed by MapLight, a nonpartisan research organization that tracks the influence of money in politics, shows that in 2017 the Business Roundtable gave \$6 million and the Retail Industry Leaders Association contributed \$800,000.” [CNBC, [5/23/19](#)]

2017: American Action Network Reported \$51 Million In Contributions With \$16 Million Coming From A Single “Mysterious Unnamed Donor”

American Action Network Received \$51 Million In Contributions With \$16 Million Coming From A “Mysterious Unnamed Donor.” “Conservative nonprofit dark money group American Action Network dramatically increased its media spending during the tax reform debate of 2017 and the buildup to the 2018 congressional midterm elections, according to a tax filing provided to CNBC. [...] A big chunk of the \$51 million in contributions and grants the group received came from a mysterious unnamed donor who gave \$16 million. 501(c)(4)s are not legally required to disclose their donors.” [CNBC, [5/23/19](#)]