
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4—SENATOR CANNIZZARO

PREFILED FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to allow the regulation of independent political expenditures by corporations. (BDR R-777)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to allow the governments of the United States and the individual states to regulate and restrict independent political expenditures by corporations.

- 1 WHEREAS, The growing influence of large independent political
2 expenditures by corporations is a great and growing concern to the
3 people of the United States and the State of Nevada; and
4 WHEREAS, In a democracy, the assurance of a fair and
5 uncorrupted election process is of the utmost importance, and the
6 Nevada Legislature believes that it is a legitimate and vital role of
7 government to regulate independent political expenditures by
8 corporations; and
9 WHEREAS, In fulfillment of this important role, the government
10 of the United States and a majority of states have regulated and
11 restricted independent political expenditures by corporations; and
12 WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States in *Citizens*
13 *United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), held
14 that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits
15 Congress and the states from banning independent political
16 expenditures by corporations; and



1 WHEREAS, *Citizens United* overturned a long-standing
2 precedent of restricting independent political expenditures by
3 corporations; and

4 WHEREAS, *Citizens United* has served as a precedent for further
5 legal decisions which have harmed our democratic system of
6 government, including *American Tradition Partnership v. Bullock*,
7 132 S.Ct. 2490 (2012), which struck down a long-standing Montana
8 campaign finance law, denying a state the right to regulate
9 independent political expenditures by corporations in state elections;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The people of Nevada and all other states should
12 have the power to limit by law the influence of money in their
13 political systems; and

14 WHEREAS, In the wake of *Citizens United*, there has been an
15 exponential increase in large independent political expenditures by
16 corporations which threatens the integrity of the election process,
17 corrupts our candidates, dilutes the power of individual voters and
18 distorts the public discourse; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
20 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 79th Session of the
21 Nevada Legislature hereby urge the Congress of the United States to
22 propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to allow
23 the governments of the United States and the individual states to
24 regulate and restrict independent political expenditures by
25 corporations; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
27 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
28 States as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker
29 of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada
30 Congressional Delegation; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
32 passage.

