

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR FRENCH

Introduced: 2/21/14

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass legislation requiring disclosure of**
2 **independent expenditures made to influence public elections.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** a vast majority of Americans recognize that the influence of large
5 contributions by corporations, unions, other organizations, and individuals harms the ability
6 of average citizens to have a voice in their own government; and

7 **WHEREAS** the narrow majority five to four decision of the United States Supreme
8 Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), allows
9 corporations, unions, and other organizations to make unlimited independent expenditures in
10 support of, or in opposition to, candidates for public office; and

11 **WHEREAS** unlimited independent expenditures from corporations, unions, and other
12 organizations were prohibited until the court's ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election
13 Commission; and

14 **WHEREAS** much of the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent by corporations,
15 unions, and other organizations since the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission
16 ruling has been used for negative advertisements, which often misinform voters rather than

1 lead to productive discussions of the states' and nation's most important issues; and

2 **WHEREAS** the United States Supreme Court in Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1 (1976),
3 held that individuals could make unlimited independent expenditures to influence public
4 elections;

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
6 Congress to enact legislation requiring corporations, unions, other organizations, and
7 individuals to disclose the amount of independent expenditures made to influence public
8 elections and requiring advertisements intended to influence public elections purchased
9 through independent expenditures to include print and audible disclaimers that clearly identify
10 the top funders of the advertisements in a manner similar to that required by laws passed by
11 the Alaska State Legislature.

12 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
13 the United States; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S.
14 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
15 delegation in Congress; all other members of the 113th United States Congress; and the
16 presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the other 49 states.