

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI

Introduced: 2/17/17

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to work to**
2 **amend the Constitution of the United States to prohibit corporations, unions, and**
3 **individuals from making unlimited independent expenditures supporting or opposing**
4 **candidates for public office.**

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

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

9 **WHEREAS** the voices of all Americans should be heard, not just those of wealthy
10 individuals, corporate political action committees, and unions; and

11 **WHEREAS** income inequity, or the gap between the nation's wealthy and working-
12 class citizens, has been significantly growing for decades; and

13 **WHEREAS**, when the interests of wealthy individuals are magnified and promoted
14 by unlimited independent expenditures, the voices of working class Americans are drowned
15 out and the income disparity between the wealthy and working class citizens of the nation

1 only grows; and

2 **WHEREAS** the narrow majority five to four decision of the United States Supreme
3 Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), allows
4 corporations and unions to make unlimited independent expenditures supporting or opposing
5 a candidate for public office; and

6 **WHEREAS** unlimited independent expenditures from corporations and unions were
7 prohibited until the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal
8 Election Commission; and

9 **WHEREAS** billions of dollars have been spent by corporations and unions since the
10 ruling of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission
11 for negative ads, which often misinform voters rather than lead to a productive discussion of
12 the states' and nation's most important issues; and

13 **WHEREAS**, unless the United States Supreme Court reverses its ruling, the only way
14 to reverse the harmful effects of the Citizens United ruling is to amend the Constitution of the
15 United States; and

16 **WHEREAS**, while not addressed by the United States Supreme Court's ruling in
17 Citizens United, unlimited independent expenditures made by individuals also distort the
18 political process and ability of all American citizens to have an equal voice in government;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
20 Congress and the President of the United States to work across party lines to propose a
21 constitutional amendment to prohibit corporations, unions, and individuals from making
22 unlimited independent expenditures.

23 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
24 of the United States; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S.
25 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
26 delegation in Congress; all other members of the 115th United States Congress; and the
27 presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the other 49 states.