

HM 1275

2012

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to propose to the states for
4 ratification an amendment to the United States
5 Constitution to reverse *Citizens United v. Federal*
6 *Election Commission* and to restore constitutional
7 rights and fair elections to the people.

8
9 WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United
10 States Supreme Court has erroneously transformed the First
11 Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade
12 and invalidate the people's laws, and

13 WHEREAS, this corporate misuse of the First Amendment and
14 Constitution has reached an extreme conclusion in the United
15 States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal*
16 *Election Commission*, and

17 WHEREAS, this ruling overturned a longstanding precedent
18 prohibiting corporations from spending corporate general
19 treasury funds in our elections and unleashed a torrent of
20 corporate money in our political process unmatched by any
21 campaign expenditure totals in United States history, and

22 WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*
23 purports to invalidate state laws and even state constitutional
24 provisions separating corporate money from elections and
25 presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy, and

26 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution
27 empowers and obligates the people and states of the United
28 States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to

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29 | correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States
30 | Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and self-
31 | government, and

32 | WHEREAS, the people and states of the United States of
33 | America have strengthened the nation and preserved liberty and
34 | equality for all by using the amendment process throughout our
35 | history, and

36 | WHEREAS, we the people adopted and ratified the United
37 | States Constitution to protect free speech and other rights of
38 | the people, not corporations, NOW, THEREFORE,

39 |
40 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

41 |
42 | That we call upon the United States Congress to pass and
43 | send to the states for ratification an amendment to the United
44 | States Constitution to reverse *Citizens United v. Federal*
45 | *Election Commission* and to restore constitutional rights and
46 | fair elections to the people.

47 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
48 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
49 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
50 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
51 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.