

Senate Joint Resolution No. 4—Senator Cannizzaro

FILE NUMBER.....

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 limit political contributions and expenditures to protect the integrity of elections and the equal right of all Americans to effective representation.

WHEREAS, The growing influence of large independent political expenditures is a great and growing concern to the people of the United States and the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, In a democracy, the assurance of a fair and uncorrupted election process is of the utmost importance, and the Nevada Legislature believes that it is a legitimate and vital role of government to regulate political expenditures in an even-handed manner; and

WHEREAS, In fulfillment of this important role, the government of the United States and a majority of states have regulated and limited independent and other political contributions and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), held that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits Congress and the states from limiting or restricting independent political expenditures by corporations and unions; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United* overturned a long-standing precedent of allowing regulation of independent political expenditures; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United* has served as a precedent for further legal decisions which have harmed our democratic system of government, including *American Tradition Partnership v. Bullock*, 567 U.S. 516 (2012), which struck down a long-standing Montana campaign finance law, denying a state the right to regulate independent political expenditures by corporations in state elections, and *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*, 134 S.Ct. 1434 (2014), which struck down aggregate individual contribution limits; and

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

WHEREAS, In the wake of *Citizens United*, there has been an exponential increase in large political contributions and



expenditures which threatens the integrity of the election process, corrupts our candidates, dilutes the power of individual voters and distorts the public discourse; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge the Congress of the United States to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to allow the governments of the United States and the individual states to regulate political contributions and expenditures; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

