

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 54

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the rights protected and extended by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2023

Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Mr. KILMER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. PETERS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. EVANS) submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the rights protected and extended by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*
4 *lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-*
5 *stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all*
6 *intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when*

1 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
2 States:

3 “ARTICLE —

4 “SECTION 1. The rights and privileges protected and
5 extended by the Constitution of the United States are the
6 rights and privileges of natural persons only. An artificial
7 entity, such as a corporation, limited liability company, or
8 other entity, established by the laws of any State, the
9 United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights
10 under the Constitution and are subject to regulation by
11 the People, through Federal, State, or local law. The privi-
12 leges of an artificial entity shall be determined by the Peo-
13 ple, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not
14 be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

15 “SECTION 2. Federal, State, and local government
16 shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expendi-
17 tures, including a candidate’s own contributions and ex-
18 penditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their
19 economic status, have access to the political process, and
20 that no person gains, as a result of that person’s money,
21 substantially more access or ability to influence in any way
22 the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot
23 measure. Federal, State, and local governments shall re-
24 quire that any permissible contributions and expenditures
25 be publicly disclosed. The judiciary shall not construe the

1 spending of money to influence elections to be speech
2 under the First Amendment.

3 “SECTION 3. This amendment shall not be construed
4 to abridge the right secured by the Constitution of the
5 United States of the freedom of the press.”.

○