

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4—SENATOR CANNIZZARO

PREFILED FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to allow the reasonable regulation of political contributions and expenditures by corporations, unions and individuals to protect the integrity of elections and the equal right of all Americans to effective representation. (BDR R-777)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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.

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States in *Citizens*  
14 *United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), held  
15 that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits



1 Congress and the states from limiting or restricting independent  
2 political expenditures by corporations and unions; and

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

6 WHEREAS, *Citizens United* has served as a precedent for further  
7 legal decisions which have harmed our democratic system of  
8 government, including *American Tradition Partnership v. Bullock*,  
9 567 U.S. 516 (2012), which struck down a long-standing Montana  
10 campaign finance law, denying a state the right to regulate  
11 independent political expenditures by corporations in state elections,  
12 and *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*, 134 S.Ct. 1434  
13 (2014), which struck down aggregate individual contribution limits;  
14 and

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

18 WHEREAS, In the wake of *Citizens United*, there has been an  
19 exponential increase in large political contributions and  
20 expenditures which threatens the integrity of the election process,  
21 corrupts our candidates, dilutes the power of individual voters and  
22 distorts the public discourse; now, therefore, be it

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

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

34 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon  
35 passage.

