

By Senator Braynon

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
urging Congress to propose an amendment to the United
States Constitution to restore the constitutional
rights of the people to fair elections.

WHEREAS, the states adopted and ratified the United States
Constitution to protect the free speech and other rights of
people, not corporations, and

WHEREAS, corporations are not people but instead are
entities created by the law of states and nations, and

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

WHEREAS, this misuse of the First Amendment for the benefit
of corporations reached an extreme conclusion in the United
States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal
Election Commission*, 130 S.Ct 876 (2010), and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*
overturned longstanding precedent restricting corporate
expenditures to influence elections, and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*,
unleashed a torrent of corporate money in political processes in
a manner unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United
States history, and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*,
purports to invalidate state laws and even provisions of state

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30 constitutions restricting corporate expenditures to influence
31 elections, and

32 WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*,
33 presents a serious and direct threat to our republican form of
34 government, and

35 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution
36 empowers and obligates the people and states of the United
37 States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to
38 correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States
39 Supreme Court which go to the heart of our democracy, and

40 WHEREAS, the people and states of the United States have
41 strengthened the nation and preserved liberty and equality for
42 all by using the amendment process throughout our history and by
43 using the amendment process to reverse seven erroneous Supreme
44 Court decisions, NOW, THEREFORE,

45
46 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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48 That the Congress of the United States is urged to enact
49 and send to the states for ratification a constitutional
50 amendment to reverse *Citizens United v. Federal Election*
51 *Commission*, and to restore the constitutional rights of the
52 people to fair elections.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
54 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
55 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
56 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
57 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.