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2014

House Memorial

1
2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to call a convention for the purpose
4 of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the
5 United States to provide that every law enacted by
6 Congress shall embrace only one subject that shall be
7 clearly expressed in its title.
8

9 WHEREAS, each measure before a legislative body should pass
10 on its own merits without depending on legislative support for
11 other unrelated measures to achieve the required number of votes
12 for passage, and

13 WHEREAS, a single-subject constitutional provision
14 addresses this concern by prohibiting a legislative body from
15 enacting a law that embraces more than one subject, and

16 WHEREAS, 41 of the 50 states, including Florida, have a
17 single-subject provision in their respective state
18 constitutions, and the legislatures and citizens of these states
19 have benefited from a single-subject requirement, and

20 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution is the supreme law
21 of the United States of America, touching the lives of every
22 citizen in the several states, but is missing this important
23 provision, and

24 WHEREAS, our great country is deep in debt and Congress is
25 currently searching for a solution, and

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26 WHEREAS, a federal single-subject amendment would provide
 27 the means to limit pork barrel spending, control the phenomenon
 28 of legislating through riders, limit omnibus legislation
 29 produced by logrolling, prevent public surprise, and increase
 30 the institutional accountability of Congress and its members,
 31 and

32 WHEREAS, it is Florida's hope and desire that Congress will
 33 be able to conduct its business in a more productive, efficient,
 34 transparent, and less acrimonious way with a single-subject
 35 requirement, and

36 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States
 37 makes provision for amending the Constitution on the application
 38 of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, calling
 39 a convention for proposing amendments that shall be valid to all
 40 intents and purposes if ratified by the legislatures of three-
 41 fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-
 42 fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification
 43 may be proposed by Congress, NOW, THEREFORE,

44
 45 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 46

47 That the Legislature of the State of Florida, with all due
 48 respect, does hereby make application to the Congress of the
 49 United States pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the
 50 United States to call a convention for the sole purpose of

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51 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States
52 to provide:

53 Congress shall pass no bill, and no bill shall become
54 law, which embraces more than one subject, that
55 subject to be clearly expressed in the bill's title.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this memorial supersedes all
57 previous memorials and concurrent resolutions applying to the
58 Congress of the United States to call a convention for the
59 purpose of proposing a single-subject amendment to the
60 Constitution of the United States and that such previous
61 memorials and resolutions are hereby revoked and withdrawn,
62 nullified, and superseded to the same effect as if they had
63 never been passed.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this memorial is revoked and
65 withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the same effect as if it
66 had never been passed, and retroactive to the date of passage,
67 if it is used for the purpose of calling a convention or used in
68 support of conducting a convention to amend the Constitution of
69 the United States for any purpose other than requiring that
70 every law enacted by Congress embrace only one subject which
71 shall be clearly expressed in the title.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
73 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
74 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
75 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of

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76 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress. |