

HM 1241

2020

## 1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
3 urging Congress to propose to the states an amendment  
4 to the Constitution of the United States which would  
5 increase the number of United States Senators to three  
6 in any state that has a population of more than 6  
7 million as determined by the federal census.  
8

9 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States  
10 authorizes Congress to propose amendments to the Constitution of  
11 the United States which shall become valid when ratified by the  
12 states, and

13 WHEREAS, the United States Senate, as set forth in the  
14 Constitution, consists of two members from each state,  
15 regardless of the population of the state, and

16 WHEREAS, since the admission of Alaska and Hawaii in 1959,  
17 which raised the number of states in the United States to 50,  
18 the number of United States Senators has been 100, and

19 WHEREAS, the system of giving each state two senators was  
20 devised by the founding fathers to protect small states from the  
21 domination of larger states, and

22 WHEREAS, at the time the United States Constitution was  
23 drafted, there was a real disparity between the populations of  
24 large states, such as Virginia, and small states, such as  
25 Delaware and Rhode Island, but that disparity, at its greatest,

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26 | was only on the order of 10 to 1, and

27 |       WHEREAS, the population of larger states has since grown to  
28 | numbers unimaginable to our founding fathers, headed by  
29 | California, with an estimated population of 40 million people,  
30 | followed by Texas, with a population of nearly 30 million  
31 | people, and Florida, now ranked the third most populous state,  
32 | with nearly 22 million people, and

33 |       WHEREAS, the smallest states by population, Wyoming and  
34 | Vermont, have populations barely in excess of 500,000 people,  
35 | less than the current population of the District of Columbia,  
36 | and

37 |       WHEREAS, the population disparity between the largest and  
38 | smallest states has grown from a proportion of 10 to 1 to a  
39 | ratio that now is closer to 100 to 1, and

40 |       WHEREAS, as a result of this unprecedented disparity, the  
41 | United States Senate has become extremely malapportioned to the  
42 | degree that soon 30 percent of the country's population will  
43 | elect 70 percent of the members of the United States Senate,  
44 | while conversely 70 percent of the country's population will  
45 | elect only 30 percent of the members of the United States  
46 | Senate, a disparity fraught with unhappy consequences for the  
47 | vast majority of the country's population, which will be almost  
48 | powerless to address many pressing issues for the overwhelming  
49 | number of urban and suburban residents of the United States, and

50 |       WHEREAS, were this system not provided for directly in the

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51 United States Constitution, it would be manifestly  
52 unconstitutional for reasons including that the system would be  
53 a denial of equal protection, and of the one person, one vote  
54 principle prevalent in all other elections, and

55 WHEREAS, there is a need to address this growing imbalance  
56 of electoral power, while still preserving the principle of  
57 protecting the rights of smaller states, and

58 WHEREAS, 19 states, including Maryland, Georgia, North  
59 Carolina, Arizona, Tennessee, and Indiana, currently have  
60 populations in excess of 6 million people, approximately 10  
61 times the population of that of the smallest states, and

62 WHEREAS, one method of addressing the current imbalance in  
63 a modest way, while giving an increased voice to larger states  
64 but not denying any current representation to smaller states and  
65 not having any appreciable partisan effect on current levels of  
66 representation and retaining the basic formula of having states  
67 receive allocations of senators not directly based on relative  
68 populations, as is done with the United States House of  
69 Representatives, would be to grant each state with a population  
70 in excess of 6 million people an additional senate seat, so  
71 those states would have three senators, while all other states  
72 would continue to have two senators, and

73 WHEREAS, such a method would result in a total of 120  
74 United States Senators, once the 20th state crosses the 6  
75 million population threshold, which would be a modest increase

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76 | but still be a workable number of senators, and would still  
77 | provide ample protection for smaller states from being dominated  
78 | by larger states, and

79 |       WHEREAS, Congress should pass this proposal for an  
80 | amendment to the Constitution of the United States as a modest  
81 | attempt to address a very real, and ever growing, problem, and  
82 | submit this amendment to the states for ratification, NOW,  
83 | THEREFORE,

84 |

85 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

86 |

87 |       That Congress is respectfully petitioned to propose to the  
88 | states an amendment to the Constitution of the United States  
89 | which would increase the number of United States Senators to  
90 | three in any state that has a population of more than 6 million  
91 | as determined by the federal census.

92 |       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch  
93 | copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,  
94 | the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
95 | United States House of Representatives, and each member of the  
96 | Florida delegation to the United States Congress.