



(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. J. RES.

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to firmly establish that money is not political speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights. Further, those natural persons who are eligible to vote shall have exclusive rights to support political campaigns with contributions and expenditures. Legal entities that are not eligible to vote shall have no rights to make campaign contributions or expenditures to influence elections or to support ballot measures of any kind.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Stevenson introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

## JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to firmly establish that money is not political speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights. Further, those natural persons who are eligible to vote shall have exclusive rights to support political campaigns with contributions and expenditures. Legal entities that are not eligible to vote shall have no rights to make campaign contributions or expenditures to influence elections or to support ballot measures of any kind.

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*  
4     following article is proposed as an amendment to the  
5     Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid  
6     to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when  
7     ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several  
8     States within seven years after the date of its submission for  
9     ratification.

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. The rights and privileges protected by the Constitution  
3 of the United States are the rights and privileges of natural persons only.

4 Artificial legal entities established by the laws of any State, the United  
5 States, or any foreign state shall have no rights and privileges under this  
6 Constitution and are subject to legislative regulation by natural persons, through  
7 Federal, State, and local law.

8 The rights and privileges of artificial legal entities shall not be construed  
9 to be inherent or inalienable.

10 “SECTION 2. Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit,  
11 or prohibit contributions and in-kind expenditures, including a candidate's own  
12 contributions and expenditures, to provide for equal political speech in all  
13 campaigns to influence the election or defeat of any candidate for public office  
14 or the passage or defeat of any ballot measure.

15 Federal, State and local government shall require that any permissible  
16 contributions and in-kind expenditures be publicly disclosed.

17 The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence  
18 elections or to support political campaigns to be speech under the First  
19 Amendment.

20 “SECTION 3. Eligible voters whose legal residence is  
21 located in the electoral district where an election is held shall  
22 have the exclusive right to make campaign contributions and in-kind  
23 expenditures to influence the election or defeat of local, state, and federal  
24 candidates for public office or to influence the passage or defeat of any ballot  
25 measure on local and state ballots. The words “voter” and “elector” shall refer to  
26 the same class of natural person under the law in each state within the United  
27 States.

28 Artificial legal entities and non-residents of a voting district shall have  
29 no right to make contributions or expenditures to support or oppose any  
30 candidate for public office or any ballot measure therein. Campaign committees  
31 shall have the right to use campaign contributions provided only by eligible  
32 voters who are natural persons physically residing in a voting precinct  
33 within the area where an election is held.

34 “SECTION 4. Nothing contained in this amendment shall  
35 be construed to abridge the freedom of the press. All illegal  
36 contributions and illegal in-kind expenditures shall earn a  
37 fine of exactly twice the amount illegally spent.