

In support of HJM 201,

Thank you, Chairwoman and members of the committee, for allowing me to speak today. My name is Colby Clipston, and I'm a native Oregonian. One of the values I was raised with was to always stand up for what I believe is right, and to try to make the change I want to see in the world. During my time at UofO studying political science, this value was my main motivation because I truly wanted to help change the world for the better, and that's exactly why I'm here today.

In fact, I think that's why we're all here today. I'd even guess that it's a big reason why a lot of you on this committee decided to run for office in the first place. This memorial, HJM 201, is an opportunity to change our country and ultimately the world, for the better.

From conservative Republicans to Progressive Democrats, Americans agree on the need to restore free and fair elections in America. This is not an issue of right versus left – it's an issue of right and wrong. Americans are deeply concerned that our representative democracy is in jeopardy when dark money flows uninterrupted into our political process, obscuring the will of the people. But what shall we do?

At the original Convention in Philadelphia, General Mason stood up and asked about the amendment process, 'What shall we do if Congress itself is the problem?', and that is why the convention procedure utilized in HJM 201 was added to the Constitution.

There are only two ways to amend the United States Constitution – 2/3 of Congress can vote to propose an amendment or 2/3 of the states can demand a convention to propose amendments. It's important to remember that either way it's proposed, 75% of the state legislatures, or 38 states, must vote in favor of ratification before it becomes part of the Constitution.

This extremely high ratification threshold ensures that only the most populist proposals with support across the political spectrum will make it through the ratification gauntlet and become part of our Constitution. Of all the Constitutional Republics in the world, the U.S. Constitution is one of the most difficult to amend, requiring a supermajority of consent among the states at both the proposal and ratification steps.

On this vital American issue, it is time for Oregon to lead, using the powers built into the Constitution by the Founding Fathers for this very purpose. If Congress itself is the source of the problem, then it's the duty and responsibility of the states to take action to fix it.

Please vote yes on HJM 201 so that we can utilize the process that has historically resulted in amending the Constitution and make America a more perfect union. Thank you.