

Senate Joint Memorial 10

Sponsored by Senator PROZANSKI (at the request of Diane Conrad)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Applies to Congress to call amendment convention for purpose of proposing amendments that limit extension of constitutional rights to corporations, organizations and other artificial entities, and that limit role of money in political campaigns.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress as-
3 sembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-
5 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas Americans and the national and state governments of the United States have a com-
7 pelling interest in upholding a democratic system for free elections and free speech; and

8 Whereas free elections and free speech are necessary to maintain justice, equity and due dili-
9 gence in a democratic electoral process; and

10 Whereas American elections should be free of corruption and the appearance of corruption; and

11 Whereas excessive spending by corporations, organizations and other artificial entities serves
12 as a corrupting influence on elections for public office in this nation; and

13 Whereas corporations, organizations and other artificial entities are not by and of themselves
14 natural biological human beings and therefore ought not to have the same constitutional rights as
15 natural biological human beings; and

16 Whereas while corporations, organizations and other artificial entities help facilitate some ac-
17 tivities of humans, artificial entities are tools used to achieve human purposes and do not warrant
18 the same rights and freedoms as the United States Constitution assigns to humans; and

19 Whereas money is not the equivalent to speech and ought not to be granted the same constitu-
20 tional rights as verbal and written expression; and

21 Whereas money is physical property and cannot speak for itself; and

22 Whereas money is a tool used to achieve human purposes and does not warrant the same rights
23 and freedoms as the United States Constitution assigns to humans; and

24 Whereas regulating some uses of money in the political arena is not the same as banning free-
25 dom of speech; and

26 Whereas Article V of the United States Constitution requires Congress to call a convention for
27 proposing amendments to the Constitution upon "the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds
28 of the several States"; and

29 Whereas the State of Oregon sees the need for a convention to propose amendments that clarify
30 that corporations, organizations and other artificial entities are not persons to which the rights and
31 privileges of the United States Constitution will be extended, that only natural biological humans

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 may be extended the rights and privileges of the United States Constitution, and that money is not
2 the equivalent of speech and may be legislatively regulated for campaign finance purposes; and

3 Whereas the State of Oregon intends the application set forth herein to be limited so that any
4 convention called by Congress that relies on this application for achieving the minimum threshold
5 of two-thirds of states must be limited to the subjects herein described; and

6 Whereas the State of Oregon intends that this be a continuing application considered with ap-
7 plications calling for a convention adopted or currently pending in other states and future applica-
8 tions until such time as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a convention under Article
9 V of the United States Constitution and that convention is convened by Congress; now, therefore,

10 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

11 (1) We, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, pursuant to Article V of the
12 United States Constitution, hereby petition Congress to call a convention for the purpose of pro-
13 posing amendments to the United States Constitution relating to the subjects described in the pre-
14 amble of this memorial as soon as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a convention.

15 (2) For purposes of determining whether two-thirds of the states have applied for a convention,
16 we intend that this application be aggregated with the applications of any other state legislature
17 that includes any of the subjects set forth in the preamble of this memorial.

18 (3) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Senate Minority
19 Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the House Minority Leader, to each
20 member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation and to the presiding officers of the legislative
21 chambers in each state of the United States requesting their cooperation in issuing a petition to
22 Congress to call a convention for the purpose of proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the
23 United States Constitution.

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