

HCR 5 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

14Mar2019... 0093h

2019 SESSION

19-0588

11/10

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION **5**

A RESOLUTION requesting the United States Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to reverse the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission.

SPONSORS: Rep. McGhee, Hills. 40; Rep. Petrigno, Hills. 23

COMMITTEE: State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

ANALYSIS

This concurrent resolution requests the United States Congress propose a constitutional amendment reversing the effects of the rulings of the United States Supreme Court in Buckley v. Valeo and Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen

A RESOLUTION requesting the United States Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to reverse the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*.

1 Whereas, *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1 (1976), saw the United States Supreme Court rule that
2 restricting spending for political communication amounted to a restriction of free speech; and

3 Whereas, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) saw the United
4 States Supreme Court rule that corporations and unions are constitutionally permitted to support
5 or oppose candidates through political spending; and

6 Whereas, these recent decisions disproportionately elevate the interest of those able to pay in
7 our elections, at the expense of ordinary Americans; and

8 Whereas, New Hampshire's citizens rely on free and fair elections and reasonable campaign
9 finance laws to maintain effective self-governance; and

10 Whereas, the current legal landscape frustrates efforts to reduce the influence of moneyed
11 interests and induces wasting and escalating sums of money to influence elections outcomes; and

12 Whereas, the corrupting influence of money on our democracy undermines the essential trust of
13 the citizenry in our government; now, therefore, be it

14 Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

15 That the state of New Hampshire hereby calls upon the United States Congress to propose and
16 send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to reinstate a precedent of 'we, the
17 people' being at the center of our democracy, rather than money; and

18 That the state of New Hampshire hereby calls upon each member of the New Hampshire
19 congressional delegation to actively support and promote in Congress an amendment to the United
20 States Constitution on campaign finance reform and the first amendment that addresses this
21 resolution and joins with all other states who have called for action to restore free, fair, and
22 transparent elections to our democracy; and

23 That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the secretary of state, be
24 transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the
25 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the New Hampshire
26 Congressional Delegation.