

3/3/97 State Gov.

FILED MAR 3 - 1997

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 10  
BY HALVORSON

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution requesting the proposal of an amendment to the  
2 Constitution of the United States to allow Congress and the  
3 states to set expenditure and contribution limits for  
4 political campaigns.

5 WHEREAS, the Congress enacted contribution and expenditure  
6 limits for political campaigns for federal office as part of the  
7 Federal Election Campaign Act in 1974; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruled in 1976 in  
9 Buckley v. Valeo that mandatory campaign expenditure limits are  
10 invalid under the First Amendment to the United States  
11 Constitution; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has since also ruled  
13 that Congress cannot limit the amounts spent by individuals,  
14 interest groups, and political parties on political advertising  
15 that is independent from the candidate's own advertising and on  
16 advertising related to advocacy of political issues; and

17 WHEREAS, these rulings also affect the ability of state  
18 legislatures to enact contribution and expenditure limitations  
19 for political campaigns; and

20 WHEREAS, an estimated record of \$2.7 billion was spent on  
21 political advertising in the 1996 elections; and

22 WHEREAS, recent polls have revealed that a majority of  
23 Americans believe that the current system of campaign finance  
24 must be reformed; NOW THEREFORE,

S.J.R. 10

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 That the Congress of the United States is hereby petitioned  
2 to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United  
3 States, for submission to the states for ratification, to  
4 allow Congress and the state legislatures to set contribution  
5 and expenditure limits for political campaigns.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State shall  
7 transmit certified copies of this Joint Resolution to the  
8 President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the  
9 Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of  
10 Representatives, each member of the Iowa delegation to  
11 Congress, and the presiding officer of each house of each  
12 state legislature in the United States.

13 EXPLANATION

14 This joint resolution constitutes a petition to the United  
15 States Congress to propose a constitutional amendment that  
16 would allow Congress and state legislatures to pass  
17 legislation setting mandatory limits on contributions and  
18 expenditures in political campaigns. Previous rulings by the  
19 United States Supreme Court indicate that mandatory  
20 expenditure limits violate the First Amendment of the United  
21 States Constitution, and that contribution limits are also  
22 subject to strict scrutiny under the First Amendment.

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