

# Senate Resolution 113 - Introduced

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY DANIELSON

1 A Resolution urging Congress to enact campaign finance  
2 restrictions relating to Citizens United v. Federal  
3 Election Commission.

4 WHEREAS, the protections afforded by the First  
5 Amendment of the Constitution of the United States  
6 to the people of our nation are fundamental to our  
7 democracy; and

8 WHEREAS, the First Amendment of the Constitution  
9 of the United States was designed to protect the free  
10 speech rights of people regardless of wealth, and not  
11 corporations; and

12 WHEREAS, corporations are not people who are  
13 entitled to constitutional rights of citizenship but  
14 instead are entities created by the laws of states and  
15 nations; and

16 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens  
17 United v. Federal Election Commission overturned  
18 long-standing precedent prohibiting corporations  
19 from spending their general treasury funds in our  
20 elections; and

21 WHEREAS, the opinion of the four dissenting justices  
22 in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission  
23 noted that corporations have special advantages not  
24 enjoyed by natural persons, such as limited liability,  
25 perpetual life, and favorable treatment of the  
26 accumulation and distribution of assets, that allow  
27 them to spend prodigious sums on campaign messages that  
28 have little or no correlation with the beliefs held by

1 natural persons; and

2 WHEREAS, the majority opinion of the Supreme Court  
3 in *Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce*, 494 U.S.  
4 652 (1990), ruled that the people have a compelling  
5 interest in preventing the corrosive and distorting  
6 effects of immense aggregations of wealth that are  
7 accumulated with the help of the corporate form and  
8 that have little or no correlation to the public's  
9 support for the corporation's political ideas from  
10 unduly influencing our political process; and

11 WHEREAS, the general public and political leaders in  
12 the United States have recognized, since the founding  
13 of our country, that the interests of corporations  
14 do not always correspond with the public interest  
15 and that, therefore, the political influence of  
16 corporations should be limited; and

17 WHEREAS, notwithstanding the decision in *Citizens*  
18 *United v. Federal Election Commission*, legislators have  
19 a duty to protect democracy and our Constitution and  
20 defend them from the potentially detrimental effects  
21 of corporate spending in local, state, and federal  
22 elections; NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate  
24 urges the United States Congress to enact appropriate  
25 legislation to regulate and restrict corporate  
26 participation in election campaigns; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the  
28 Senate is directed to forward a copy of this resolution  
29 to each member of the Iowa Congressional delegation.