

House Concurrent Resolution 108 - Introduced

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY ISENHART, JACOBY, STECKMAN, HUNTER, KEARNS, M.
SMITH, THOMAS, KRESSIG, ABDUL-SAMAD, HANSON, OURTH,
WOOD, HEDDENS, COHOON, STAED, FORBES, KELLEY,
RIDING, WINCKLER, GASKILL, STUTSMAN, BEARINGER,
HALL, LENSING, OLDSON, R. OLSON, T. OLSON, WOLFE,
H. MILLER, THEDE, PRICHARD, MASCHER, ANDERSON,
DAWSON, MEYER, GAINES, RUFF, BERRY, MURPHY,
MUHLBAUER, T. TAYLOR, WESSEL-KROESCHELL, DUNKEL,
LYKAM, and RUNNING-MARQUARDT

1 A Concurrent Resolution urging the Congress of the
2 United States to propose an amendment to the
3 Constitution of the United States to allow Congress
4 and the states to prohibit or otherwise regulate
5 the expenditure of funds for political speech
6 by corporate entities, and to limit or otherwise
7 regulate political contributions and spending.
8 WHEREAS, by a ruling of the United States Supreme
9 Court, a corporation, limited liability company, or
10 other type of corporate entity is now accorded greater
11 rights of political activity than was previously
12 lawful; and
13 WHEREAS, those rights now allow a corporation,
14 a limited liability company, or other type of
15 corporate entity to use general treasury funds to
16 make independent expenditures for electioneering
17 communications or for speech that expressly advocates
18 the election or defeat of a candidate for public
19 office; and
20 WHEREAS, this ruling overturns a century of

1 legislative and judicial determinations making a
2 distinction between the political free speech of
3 natural persons and political activity by corporate
4 entities; and

5 WHEREAS, a corporate entity has far greater economic
6 resources than does a natural person and may use those
7 resources to advance political ideas; and

8 WHEREAS, by a second ruling of the United States
9 Supreme Court, statutory limits on overall campaign
10 contributions by large individual donors to candidates,
11 political parties, and political action committees have
12 been struck down; and

13 WHEREAS, these contribution limits, now in place for
14 decades, are essential to ensure that small numbers
15 of large donors do not have a disparate impact on the
16 election process; and

17 WHEREAS, restriction and regulation of corporate
18 political activity, and unlimited contributions,
19 is essential to prevent domination of the political
20 process by corporate entities, and by small numbers of
21 wealthy individuals; NOW THEREFORE,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
23 THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly of
24 the State of Iowa urges the Congress of the United
25 States to propose an amendment to the Constitution of
26 the United States, for submission to the states for
27 ratification, providing in substance that the sovereign
28 right of the people to govern being essential to a
29 free democracy, Congress and the states may prohibit
30 or otherwise regulate the expenditure of funds for

1 political speech by any corporation, limited liability
2 company, or other corporate entity, and may limit
3 or otherwise regulate political contributions and
4 spending; and

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