

February 11, 2014

Signatories

American Friends Service Committee
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Conference of Major Superiors of Men
Disciples Justice Action Network
Faith in Public Life
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mennonite Central Committee, U.S. Washington Office
Muslim Public Affairs Council
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Pax Christi USA
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Institute Justice Team
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
United Methodist Women

Dear Member of Congress:

We write to ask you to express your support for a Constitutional amendment to reduce the role of money in elections and to enhance the integrity of the electoral system.

As representatives of faith-based organizations, we share a commitment to religious teachings that recognize each person as a gift of the Creator, and that emphasize the importance of the essential humanity of each person. These principles have prompted people of faith to take an active part in movements for civil rights – especially voting rights for people of color and women. These fundamental truths urge us now to protect the value of each person’s participation in the democratic process, both in their ability to be heard in the election process and in the relative weight of their individual vote.

Individual voting rights can lose their value when they are overwhelmed by the influence of corporations and individuals capable of contributing large sums of money to election campaigns. In the same way, the voices and concerns of the constituents each elected member of congress represents can be drowned out by the high degree of access and attention that comes hand in hand with this influx of money from a small number of individuals and groups. Many of our congregations and associations carry deep concerns about immigration, gun violence, prisons, and climate change. We have watched as the out-sized role of political donations has distorted the electoral process and limited elected representatives’ ability to truly represent their constituencies on these and many critical issues.

Honesty, integrity, and the meaningful inclusion of all voters in electoral and democratic processes arise out of closely held values of faith. When the electoral system begins to break down, our shared faith values call us to help mend and strengthen it.

We therefore strongly encourage you to review the resolutions in the 113th Congress that propose to amend the U.S. Constitution to protect the value of every person’s vote and participation in elections, and to express your support for one of these proposed amendments. If you are waiting for a preferred legislative vehicle, we ask you to state publicly that you do support the idea of a Constitutional amendment that would set right our distorted electoral system.

In shared hope for our democracy,

National Faith-Based Organizations

Eight House Resolutions

These House Joint Resolutions propose Constitutional amendments to clarify that Congress has the authority to legislate regarding election-related contributions, to restrict certain rights of corporations and associations with respect to elections, and to make other potentially effective changes to reverse the damage of the 2010 *Citizens United* and *Speech Now* decisions.

- [H.J.RES.34](#) introduced on March 12, 2013 by **Rep. Ted Deutch**. Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to recognize the right of natural persons (only) to make contributions and expenditures to influence the outcome of public elections, clarifies congressional and state power to protect the integrity and fairness of the electoral process, and affirms freedom of the press.
- [H.J.RES.32](#) introduced on February 26, 2013 by **Rep. Kurt Schrader**. Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving Congress power to regulate campaign contributions for Federal elections.
- [H.J.RES.31](#) introduced on February 14, 2013 by **Rep. Adam Schiff**. Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to the authority of Congress and the States to regulate contributions and expenditures in political campaigns and to enact public financing systems for such campaigns.
- [H.J.RES.25](#) introduced on February 6, 2013 by **Rep. Donna Edwards**. Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate the expenditure of funds for political activity by corporations.
- [H.J.RES.20](#) introduced on January 22, 2013 by **Rep. James P. McGovern**. Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures with respect to elections.
- [H.J.RES.21](#) introduced on January 22, 2013 by **Rep. James P. McGovern** and **Rep. Walter B. Jones**. Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate corporations, limited liability companies or other corporate entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state. The resolution affirms rights of free speech.
- [H.J.RES.14](#) introduced on January 4, 2013 by **Rep. Marcy Kaptur**. Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States waiving the application of the first article of amendment to the political speech of corporations and other business organizations with respect to the disbursement of funds in connection with public elections and granting Congress and the States the power to establish limits on contributions and expenditures in elections for public office.
- [H.J.RES.12](#) introduced on January 4, 2013 by **Rep. Marcy Kaptur**. Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to limitations on the amounts of contributions and expenditures that may be made in connection with campaigns for election to public office.