

# House Joint Memorial 6

Sponsored by Representative CLEM (at the request of Marion County Move to Amend) (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to propose constitutional amendment to limit certain political contributions.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the United States Constitution does not mention corporations and is intended to guarantee rights for human beings only; and

Whereas corporations, limited liability companies and partnerships, associations and other entities established under and granted privileges by local, state and federal laws make important contributions to our society, but are not to be equated with individual persons or granted constitutional rights; and

Whereas money is property and not speech, and the Congress of the United States, state legislatures and local legislative bodies should have the authority to regulate political contributions and expenditures; and

Whereas based on the American value of fair play, leveling the playing field and ensuring that all citizens, regardless of wealth, have an opportunity to have their political views heard, there is a valid rationale for regulating political spending; and

Whereas Article V of the United States Constitution provides for amendments to the Constitution, a process that has occurred 27 times, including seven constitutional amendments that may be reasonably interpreted as overturning decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States; and

Whereas constitutional amendments should be proposed without a timeline for their adoption; now, therefore,

### **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

(1) The Congress of the United States of America is respectfully urged to propose and send to the states for ratification an amendment to the United States Constitution, consistent with the findings outlined in this memorial, that establishes that statutory entities do not have constitutional rights and that legislatures may regulate money that is raised and spent for political purposes.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.