
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8002

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, Kohl-Welles, Billig, Rolfes, Nelson, Harper, Darneille, McAuliffe, Hargrove, and Frockt

Read first time 01/28/13. Referred to Committee on Governmental Operations.

1 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE
4 SENATE AND MINORITY LEADERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Congress and the several states have for many years
9 exercised the authority to regulate and restrict the size of financial
10 contributions to political candidates and ballot issues, to bar the
11 anonymous use of such funds, and to require that individual candidates
12 approve publicly the messages used on their behalf; and

13 WHEREAS, There has been a sudden and substantial increase in large
14 financial contributions, in donations made and used anonymously, and in
15 donations made to entities nominally separate from the candidates and
16 outside their control to affect the state and federal elections in
17 2012, and such contributions may reasonably be expected to grow in
18 number and size; and

19 WHEREAS, Expenditures that are extremely large, expenditures that
20 are made anonymously, and expenditures made by entities nominally

1 separate from and outside the control of individual candidates threaten
2 the integrity of the election process by diluting the voices of other
3 donors, distorting public discourse, and diminishing the
4 constitutionally protected right to vote;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
6 congress of the United States exercise the authority granted to it
7 under Article V of the Constitution to pass and send to the several
8 states for ratification an amendment to the Constitution to return to
9 the congress and the legislatures of the states the authority to
10 regulate the size and timing of contributions to election campaigns,
11 whether made to candidates or to ballot measures, and whether such
12 contributions are made directly to campaigns or to groups making
13 independent expenditures related to such campaigns, and the authority
14 to require timely public disclosure of the source and amount of all
15 such contributions.

16 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
17 transmitted to the Majority Leader of the Senate and Minority Leaders
18 of the Senate and House of Representatives, the President of the United
19 States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each
20 member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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