
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8005

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Hasegawa, Stanford, Trudeau, and Wellman

Prefiled 12/23/24. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Business, Financial Services & Trade.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

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

8 WHEREAS, An effective monetary and banking system is essential to
9 the functioning of the economy; and

10 WHEREAS, Such a system must function in the public interest,
11 without bias; and

12 WHEREAS, Since 1933, the federal banking act of 1933, known as
13 the Glass-Steagall act, protected the public interest in matters
14 dealing with the regulation of commercial and investment banking, in
15 addition to insurance companies and securities; and

16 WHEREAS, The Glass-Steagall act was repealed in 1999, partially
17 contributing to the greatest speculative bubble and worldwide
18 recession since the great depression of 1933, leaving millions of
19 homes in foreclosure, causing the loss of millions of jobs
20 nationwide; and

21 WHEREAS, The worldwide recession put severe financial strains on
22 states, counties, and cities, exacerbating unemployment and the loss
23 of civil services; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States senate and house of representatives
2 have been making efforts to restore the protections of the Glass-
3 Steagall act; and

4 WHEREAS, Many banks have amassed so much money that they have
5 been arbitrarily determined to be "too big to fail" by federal
6 politicians, which has resulted in United States taxpayers having to
7 bail them out with hundreds of billions of hard earned taxpayer
8 dollars for the overreach in speculative investments that are now
9 permitted due to the lack of Glass-Steagall restrictions against such
10 investments using depositors' money; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2017, a bipartisan group of United States senators,
12 including Elizabeth Warren and John McCain, introduced S.881-21st
13 Century Glass-Steagall Act to restore the complete separation of
14 risky investment banking from straightforward commercial banking
15 activities; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2023, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur introduced H.R.
17 2714, known as the return to prudent banking act of 2023, which
18 revives the separation between commercial banking and the securities
19 business in the manner provided in the Glass-Steagall act; and

20 WHEREAS, The Glass-Steagall act has widespread, bipartisan
21 national support from such organizations as the democratic national
22 committee party platform, the republican national committee party
23 platform, the American federation of labor and congress of industrial
24 organizations (AFL-CIO), the American federation of teachers, and the
25 international association of machinists, as well as from prominent
26 economic and business leaders, including Thomas Hoenig of the FDIC,
27 Sanford Weill, former CEO of Citigroup, economist Luigi Zingales, the
28 New York Times, the St. Louis Post Dispatch, the Los Angeles Times,
29 and many others;

30 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
31 enact H.R. 2714 or S.881, or any subsequent legislation that would
32 reinstate the separation of commercial and investment banking
33 functions that were in effect under the Glass-Steagall act,
34 prohibiting commercial banks and bank holding companies from
35 investing in stocks, underwriting securities, or investing in or
36 acting as guarantors to derivative transactions, in order to prevent
37 American taxpayers from being called upon to fund hundreds of
38 billions of dollars to bail out financial institutions;

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
2 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United
3 States, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, the President of the United
4 States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each
5 member of Congress from the State of Washington.

--- END ---