

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 525

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to restore the rights of the American people that were taken away by the Supreme Court's decision in the Citizens United case and related decisions, to protect the integrity of our elections, and to limit the corrosive influence of money in our democratic process.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2013

Mr. SANDERS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to restore the rights of the American people that were taken away by the Supreme Court's decision in the Citizens United case and related decisions, to protect the integrity of our elections, and to limit the corrosive influence of money in our democratic process.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the following article is proposed as an amendment
4 to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be
5 valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitu-

1 tion when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of
2 the several States:

3 “ARTICLE —

4 “SECTION 1. Whereas the right to vote in public elec-
5 tions belongs only to natural persons as citizens of the
6 United States, so shall the ability to make contributions
7 and expenditures to influence the outcome of public elec-
8 tions belong only to natural persons in accordance with
9 this Article.

10 “SECTION 2. Nothing in this Constitution shall be
11 construed to restrict the power of Congress and the States
12 to protect the integrity and fairness of the electoral proc-
13 ess, limit the corrupting influence of private wealth in pub-
14 lic elections, and guarantee the dependence of elected offi-
15 cials on the people alone by taking actions which may in-
16 clude the establishment of systems of public financing for
17 elections, the imposition of requirements to ensure the dis-
18 closure of contributions and expenditures made to influ-
19 ence the outcome of a public election by candidates, indi-
20 viduals, and associations of individuals, and the imposition
21 of content neutral limitations on all such contributions
22 and expenditures.

23 “SECTION 3. Nothing in this Article shall be con-
24 strued to alter the freedom of the press.

1 “SECTION 4. Congress and the States shall have the
2 power to enforce this Article through appropriate legisla-
3 tion.”.

