

Whereas, In fulfillment of this important role the government of the United States and a majority of states have regulated and restricted independent political expenditures by corporations; and

Whereas, In 2010, the Supreme Court of the United States decided by a bare majority in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* that the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States prohibits restrictions on the use of corporate and union treasury funds for electioneering; and

Whereas, *Citizens United* was a dramatic reversal of established Supreme Court precedent, and overturned decades of statutes enacted by Congress and numerous state legislatures; and

Whereas, *Citizens United* has served as precedent for further legal decisions harming our democratic system of government, including *SpeechNow.org v. FEC*, which allows wealthy individuals to anonymously channel unlimited political expenditures through Super PACs; and

Whereas, In the wake of *Citizens United* there has been an exponential increase in large independent political expenditures by corporations and wealthy individuals which threatens the integrity of the election process, corrupts our candidates, dilutes the power of individual voters and distort the public discourse; and

Whereas, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to amend their constitution; now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to pass and send to the states for ratification an amendment to the constitution to effectively overturn the holding of *Citizens United* and its progeny and to permit the governments of the United States and the several states to regulate and restrict independent political expenditures by corporations and wealthy individuals; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from Rhode Island in the Congress of the United States.

POM-135. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island urging Congress to pass and send to the states a constitutional amendment permitting state and federal regulation and restriction of independent political expenditures; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### JOINT RESOLUTION H. 7899

Whereas, The growing influence of large independent political expenditures by corporations and wealthy individuals is a great and growing concern to the people of the United States and the State of Rhode Island; and

Whereas, In a democracy the assurance of a fair and uncorrupted election process is of the utmost importance, and the Rhode Island General Assembly believes that it is a legitimate and vital role of government to regulate independent political expenditures by corporations, unions, and wealthy individuals; and

Whereas, In fulfillment of this important role the government of the United States

and a majority of states have regulated and restricted independent political expenditures by corporations; and

Whereas, In 2010, the Supreme Court of the United States decided by a bare majority in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* that the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States prohibits restrictions on the use of corporate and union treasury funds for electioneering; and

Whereas, *Citizens United* was a dramatic reversal of established Supreme Court precedent, and overturned decades of statutes enacted by Congress and numerous state legislatures; and

Whereas, *Citizens United* has served as precedent for further legal decisions harming our democratic system of government, including *SpeechNow.org v. FEC*, which allows wealthy individuals to anonymously channel unlimited political expenditures through Super PACs; and

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*Resolved*, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from Rhode Island in the Congress of the United States.

POM-136. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Kansas urging the Congress of the United States to extend equal benefits and compensation for the treatment of Agent Orange exposure to Vietnam era veterans who served outside of Vietnam; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5016

Whereas, Thousands of veterans of the Vietnam War suffer from the effects of exposure to Agent Orange, a powerful and toxic defoliant used to clear areas of dense vegetation used as enemy hideouts; and

Whereas, Agent Orange exposure causes a variety of devastating health effects, such as increased rates of cancer, immune system disorders and genetic maladies which lead to birth defects in the children of those exposed; and

Whereas, Although the use of Agent Orange is most commonly associated with the country of Vietnam, it was also used extensively in surrounding areas such as Thailand; and

Whereas, Many veterans affected by exposure to Agent Orange proudly and bravely

served their country without ever actually setting foot in Vietnam itself; and

Whereas, These veterans are struggling to obtain the same medical benefits and compensation to deal with their exposure as those who served on the ground in Vietnam: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein*: That the Congress of the United States is urged to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that Vietnam era veterans who served in support of the Vietnam War are able to receive the same medical benefits and compensation for the treatment of Agent Orange exposure as those who served within the country's borders.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 2038, An original bill to prohibit Members of Congress and employees of Congress from using nonpublic information derived from their official positions for personal benefit, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-244).

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 823

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 823, a bill to permit aliens who lawfully enter the United States on valid visas as nonimmigrant elementary and secondary school students to attend public schools in the United States for longer than 1 year if such aliens reimburse the local educational agency that administers the school for the full, unsubsidized per capita cost of providing education at such school for the period of the alien's attendance.

S. 2212

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2212, a bill to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) title 28, United States Code.

S. 2318

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2318, a bill to authorize the Secretary of State to pay a reward to combat transnational organized crime and for information concerning foreign nationals wanted by international criminal tribunals, and for other purposes.

S. 3199

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3199, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to stimulate international tourism to the United States and for other purposes.

S. 3227

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from West