

and co-founder: the Belva Brissett Advocacy Center.

In 1991, Ms. Brown was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to the National Cancer Advisory Board. As the first African American woman to serve in this post, she was able to direct vital funding toward inner-city cancer screenings and invite hundreds of leaders from the nation's black community to participate in education forums. She served on the President's Special Commission on Breast Cancer from 1992 to 1994, organizing the Cancer Awareness Program Services, CAPS. And in 1993, Ms. Brown proudly helped organize the Washington D.C.-based breast cancer survivor support group for African American women, "Rise, Sister Rise." Among countless local and national accolades, Ms. Brown also co-authored the 2003 book, "100 Questions and Answers About Breast Cancer."

Today, California's 13th Congressional District and the District of Columbia salute and honor an outstanding individual and a stalwart community leader, Ms. Elzora Mae Brown. Her invaluable service to our nation will be forever supported by the endless legacy of her work. We offer our sincerest condolences to her beloved family and to the many friends and associates whose lives she touched over the course of her incredible life. She will be deeply missed.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF LAUREL SPRINGS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the One-hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the Borough of Laurel Springs.

On April 2, 1913, the people of Laurel Springs broke with Clementon Township to form their own community. In the past century, Laurel Springs has been a peaceful place to call home for many, and a relaxing destination for people from near and far. Its idyllic South Jersey location has been appreciated for centuries.

Poet Walt Whitman spent much of his time between 1876 and 1884 in a summer house in what later became the Borough of Laurel Springs. It was there that he wrote portions of his renowned collection *Leaves of Grass*. Of Laurel Lake, Whitman simply wrote that it was "the prettiest lake in either America or Europe." Whitman's praise revealed this well-kept secret to the world, attracting residents and visitors and helping the community grow and thrive.

Mr. Speaker, this beautiful community has served as a home to generations of New Jerseyans and a home away from home for tourists from around the world. On the centennial of the creation of the borough, the citizens, mayor, and council of Laurel Springs should be congratulated for reaching this milestone. I join all of South Jersey in wishing the people of Laurel Springs another hundred years of happiness and prosperity for their community.

MARYLAND'S LEGISLATURE'S SUPPORT OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO OVERTURN THE SUPREME COURT CASE, CITIZENS UNITED V. FEC

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

In January 2010, the Supreme Court issued a decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* that fundamentally overturned American campaign finance laws by treating corporations as "persons" under the First Amendment, thus enabling CEOs to make unlimited expenditures from corporate treasuries into political campaigns. An estimated \$1 billion of outside money, an unprecedented amount, was spent in the 2012 election. Of this amount, an estimated \$400 million was received from anonymous sources as it was channeled through entities that do not have to identify their donors. The impact of this secret special interest money will greatly diminish the integrity of our electoral process.

Many legislative solutions have been identified to correct this trend that damages our democracy. One alternative would reverse the decision of the Court through an amendment to the Constitution. Senator Jamie Raskin, from the State of Maryland, has made a significant contribution to the development of Federal legislation that would overturn the *Citizens United* case. Moreover, Senator Raskin has been a leader in the Maryland State Senate in amassing support from Maryland legislators to call upon the U.S. Congress to pass a Constitutional Amendment to correct this decision. I would like to commend Senator Raskin for his work to strengthen the integrity of our electoral process.

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
Annapolis, MD, January, 2012.

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS: We, the Undersigned Members of the Maryland General Assembly, call upon you to pass a constitutional amendment to reverse the United States Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010), which declared that corporations enjoy the First Amendment political rights of the people and toppled dozens of state and federal laws and many decades of judicial precedent preventing corporations (and unions) from spending corporate (and union) treasury funds in political campaigns.

This radical departure from judicial precedent and democratic values has already brought a torrent of corporate money, much of it secret, into American politics, fundamentally distorting public elections and campaigns for public office. The decision poses a direct and dramatic threat to government "of the people, by the people and for the people."

By bringing corporations into the heart of the political process, *Citizens United* changes the character of democracy. For-profit corporations (except benefit corporations) are legally hound to pursue the maximization of profits and economic advantage in all of their endeavors. This is one reason why most United States Supreme Court Justices, from Chief Justice John Marshall to Chief Justice William Rehnquist, to Justice Byron White to the four dissenting justices in *Citizens United v. FEC*, have rejected the

claim that corporations have political rights.

Corporations enjoy special state-conferred economic and legal advantages not enjoyed by natural persons, including limited liability of the shareholders, perpetual life of the corporation itself, and favorable treatment of the accumulation and distribution of assets. These advantages permit corporations to amass vast sums of money that are spent properly for economic purposes but not for the purposes of intervening in democratic politics and entrenching corporate power.

Article V of the United States Constitution empowers the people, the states and the Congress to use the constitutional amending process to protect republican self-government.

This power has repeatedly been used by the people when the Supreme Court has undermined the progress or popular democracy.

As Members of the Maryland General Assembly, we sharply disagree with the majority decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and call upon the United States Congress to propose and send to the states for ratification as soon as is practicable a constitutional amendment to reverse this decision and restore fair elections and democratic sovereignty to the states and to the people.

Very truly yours,

Del. Aisha Braveboy; Del. Alfred Carr; Del. Ana Sol Gutierrez; Del. Anne Healey; Del. Anne Kaiser; Del. Ariana Kelly; Del. Aruna Miller; Del. Barbara Frush; Del. Benjamin Kramer; Del. Bonnie Cullison; Del. Brian Feldman; Del. Brian McHale; Del. C.T. Wilson; Del. Cheryl Glenn; Del. Craig Zucker; Del. Curt Anderson; Del. Dan Morhaim; Del. Dana Stein; Del. Doyle Niemann; Del. Elizabeth Bobo.

Del. Emmett Burns; Del. Eric Leudtke; Del. Frank Turner; Del. Galen Claggett; Del. Geraldine Valentino-Smith; Del. Guy Guzzone; Del. Hattie Harrison; Del. Heather Mizeur; Del. James Gilchrist; Del. James Hubbard; Del. James Malone; Del. James Proctor; Del. Jay Walker; Del. Jill Carter; Del. Jon Cardin; Del. John Olszewski; Del. John Wood; Del. Jolene Ivey; Del. Joseline Pena-Melnyk; Del. Joseph Minnick.

Del. Joseph Vallario; Del. Justin Ross; Del. Kathleen Dumais; Del. Keiffer Mitchell; Del. Keith Haynes; Del. Kirill Reznick; Del. Kris Valderama; Del. Kumar Barve; Del. Luke Clippinger; Del. Maggie McIntosh; Del. Marvin Holmes; Del. Mary Washington; Del. Melvin Stukes; Del. Michael Summers; Del. Michael Weir; Del. Norman Conway; Del. Pamela Beidle; Del. Peter Hammen; Del. Peter Murphy; Del. Rudolph Cane.

Del. Sam Arora; Del. Sandy Rosenberg; Del. Shane Pendergrass; Del. Shane Robinson; Del. Shaw Tarrant; Del. Sheila Hixson; Del. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam; Del. Stephen Lafferty; Del. Steven DeBoy; Del. Susan Lee; Del. Talmedge Branch; Del. Tawanna Gaines; Del. Theodore Sophocleus; Del. Tom Hucker; Del. Veronica Turner; Sen. Bill Ferguson; Sen. Brian Frosh; Sen. Catherine Pugh; Sen. Delores Kelley; Sen. Edward Kasemeyer.

Sen. James Brochin; Sen. James Robey; Sen. James Rosapepe; Sen. Jamie Raskin; Sen. Jennie Forehand; Sen. Joan Carter-Conway; Sen. Joanne Benson; Sen. John Astle; Sen. Karen Montgomery; Sen. Katherine Klausmeier; Sen. Lisa Gladden; Sen. Nancy King; Sen. Nathaniel McFadden; Sen. Norman Stone; Sen. Paul Pinsky; Sen. Richard Madaleno; Sen. Robert Garagiola; Sen. Robert Zirkin; Sen. Roger Manno; Sen. Ronald Young; Sen. Thomas Middleton; Sen. Ulysses Currie; Sen. Verna Jones Rodwell; Sen. Victor Ramirez.