

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 298

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding steps that Congress should take to restore democracy and change the way we do politics in the United States by reducing the influence of money and corporations and promoting the participation of the people in politics and government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2015

Mr. NOLAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Rules and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding steps that Congress should take to restore democracy and change the way we do politics in the United States by reducing the influence of money and corporations and promoting the participation of the people in politics and government.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “Restore Democ-
4 racy Resolution”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 It is the purpose of this resolution to express the
3 sense of the House of Representatives that Congress
4 should—

5 (1) confirm that money is not free speech by
6 making clear that corporations are not people for
7 purposes of the First Amendment right to make
8 campaign contributions;

9 (2) clarify its power to set limits on the amount
10 of money that can be spent on a campaign for elec-
11 tion for Federal office;

12 (3) clarify its power to provide for the public fi-
13 nancing of elections;

14 (4) limit the campaign advertising season to 60
15 days before an election and prohibit candidates from
16 soliciting or collecting campaign contributions during
17 legislative sessions;

18 (5) protect the constitutional right to vote by
19 expanding online voter registration systems;

20 (6) emphasize the need for compact, contiguous
21 Congressional districts that are not gerrymandered
22 to favor an incumbent or political party; and

23 (7) restore regular order in the legislative proc-
24 ess by requiring bills to go through committee con-
25 sideration and come to the floor under an open rule.

1 **TITLE I—OVERTURNING CITI-**
2 **ZENS UNITED DECISION AND**
3 **CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP**

4 **SEC. 101. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO OVERTURN**
5 **CITIZENS UNITED DECISION AND COR-**
6 **PORATE CITIZENSHIP FOR PURPOSES OF PO-**
7 **LITICAL ACTIVITY.**

8 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that,
9 in order to overturn the decision of the Supreme Court
10 in the case of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commis-
11 sion (558 U.S. 310), Congress should enact and the States
12 should ratify a constitutional amendment providing that
13 any right of a corporation, other business organization,
14 or other artificial entity to engage in political activity, in-
15 cluding the making of contributions and expenditures for
16 the purpose of influencing an election for public office or
17 a ballot measure, is not derived from the first amendment
18 but from the laws of the United States and the States,
19 and may be exercised only to the extent provided by such
20 laws.

1 **TITLE II—FULL DISCLOSURE**
2 **AND REDUCING THE INFLU-**
3 **ENCE OF MONEY IN POLITICS**

4 **SEC. 201. FULL DISCLOSURE AND REDUCING THE INFLU-**
5 **ENCE OF MONEY IN POLITICS.**

6 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

7 (1) the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Elec-*
8 *tion Commission* (558 U.S. 310) opened the door to
9 the corrupting influence of money in politics;

10 (2) in order to restore the American people’s
11 faith in the integrity of their elected government,
12 Congress should have the power to regulate the rais-
13 ing and spending of money and in-kind equivalents
14 with respect to Federal elections, including through
15 regulating—

16 (A) the amount of contributions to can-
17 didates for nomination or election to Federal of-
18 fice,

19 (B) the amount of expenditures that may
20 be made by, in support of, or in opposition to
21 such candidates, and

22 (C) the content and integrity of such ex-
23 penditures; and

24 (3) all political contributions should be publicly
25 disclosed, including those made to or by independent

1 groups, so that voters have complete information
2 about who is paying for political advertisements.

3 **TITLE III—PROVIDING FOR**
4 **SMALL DONOR AND PUBLIC**
5 **FINANCING OF ELECTIONS**

6 **SEC. 301. PROVIDING FOR SMALL DONOR AND PUBLIC FI-**
7 **NANCING OF ELECTIONS.**

8 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that,
9 in order to eliminate the undue influence of money in poli-
10 tics—

11 (1) Congress should create a small donor and
12 public finance system for Congressional elections,
13 which will ensure that Congress is responsible to vot-
14 ers instead of well-financed special interests; and

15 (2) Members of Congress should devote their
16 full time to regular order and governing instead of
17 campaign fundraising.

18 **TITLE IV—LIMITING THE**
19 **CAMPAIGN SEASON**

20 **SEC. 401. LIMITING THE CAMPAIGN SEASON.**

21 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

22 (1) Congress should have the power to imple-
23 ment and enforce limits on when money can be
24 spent on campaign activities;

1 (2) registered candidates for Congressional elec-
2 tions should not be allowed to expend campaign
3 funds on advertising more than 60 days before a pri-
4 mary or general election;

5 (3) candidates for Congressional office, both in-
6 cumbents and challengers, should not be allowed to
7 solicit or collect campaign contributions during the
8 hours in which Congress is in session; and

9 (4) States should create a single Congressional
10 primary date to increase voter education and partici-
11 pation.

12 **TITLE V—PROTECTING THE** 13 **RIGHT TO VOTE**

14 **SEC. 501. PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE.**

15 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

16 (1) Congress has the power to prohibit voter
17 suppression activities;

18 (2) in order to increase voter access and partici-
19 pation, Congress should require every State to create
20 and maintain an online voter registration system;
21 and

22 (3) Congress should make Election Day a legal
23 public holiday.

1 **TITLE VI—ELIMINATING PAR-**
 2 **TISAN REDISTRICTING AND**
 3 **GERRYMANDERING**

4 **SEC. 601. ELIMINATING PARTISAN REDISTRICTING AND**
 5 **GERRYMANDERING.**

6 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

7 (1) Congress should establish a Federal re-
 8 apportionment system that would create compact
 9 and contiguous Congressional districts that, to the
 10 greatest extent possible, follow geographic bound-
 11 aries and county lines;

12 (2) Congressional districts should not favor or
 13 disfavor an incumbent or political party;

14 (3) Congressional districts should adhere to the
 15 existing standards of equal population; and

16 (4) the highest court of each State should have
 17 the power to reject Congressional district maps that
 18 do not meet the above criteria.

19 **TITLE VII—REQUIRING REG-**
 20 **ULAR ORDER IN HOUSE AND**
 21 **SENATE**

22 **SEC. 701. REQUIRING REGULAR ORDER IN THE HOUSE AND**
 23 **SENATE.**

24 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

1 (1) it should not be in order to consider a bill
2 or resolution in the House unless each committee to
3 which the bill or resolution is referred—

4 (A) had a hearing on the bill or resolution
5 at which amendments were permitted to be of-
6 fered and debated and a vote was taken on each
7 amendment offered and on final passage, and

8 (B) filed a report with respect to the bill
9 or resolution;

10 (2) a conference report should not be filed in
11 the House unless—

12 (A) the conference committee held at least
13 3 meetings in which all members of the con-
14 ference committee were allowed to be present,

15 (B) all items of difference between the
16 House and Senate were addressed, voted on,
17 and resolved by the full conference committee
18 membership, and

19 (C) printed or electronic copies of the con-
20 ference report and the accompanying joint ex-
21 planatory statement were available to Members
22 and Delegates for at least 48 hours prior to fil-
23 ing;

1 (3) the House and Senate should schedule si-
2 multaneous 5-day work weeks in Washington and
3 district work periods; and

4 (4) every bill brought to committee should be
5 open to amendment and every bill brought to the
6 floor of the House for a vote should be considered
7 under an open rule.

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