

As Introduced

**131st General Assembly
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S. R. No. 187

Senator Skindell

Cosponsors: Senators Tavares, Brown

A R E S O L U T I O N

To call on legislators at the state and federal 1
level and other communities and jurisdictions to 2
support an amendment to the United States 3
Constitution that would abolish corporate 4
personhood and the doctrine of money as speech. 5

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, Government of, by, and for the people has long 6
been a cherished American value, and We the People's inalienable 7
right of self-government is guaranteed in the United States 8
Constitution and the Declaration of Independence; and 9

WHEREAS, Free and fair elections are essential to democracy 10
and effective self-governance; and 11

WHEREAS, Persons are rightfully recognized as human beings 12
whose essential needs include clean water and safe and secure 13
food; and 14

WHEREAS, Corporations are entirely human-made legal 15
entities created by express permission of We the People and our 16
government; and 17

WHEREAS, Corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist 18
simultaneously in many nations, need only profit for survival, 19
and exist solely through the legal charter imposed by the 20

government of We the People; and 21

WHEREAS, The great wealth of large corporations allows 22
them to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings 23
and communities, thus denying We the People's exercise of our 24
constitutional rights; and 25

WHEREAS, Corporations are not mentioned in the 26
Constitution, and We the People have never granted 27
constitutional rights to corporations, nor have we decreed 28
that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority 29
of We the People of the United States; and 30

WHEREAS, Interpretation of the United States 31
Constitution by appointed Supreme Court justices to include 32
corporations in the term "persons" has long denied We the 33
People's exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations 34
with constitutional protections intended for We the People; 35
and 36

WHEREAS, The judicial bestowal of civil and political 37
rights upon corporations can usurp basic human and 38
constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons, and also 39
empowers corporations to sue municipal and state governments 40
for adopting laws that violate "corporate rights," even when 41
those laws serve to protect and defend the rights of human 42
persons and communities; and 43

WHEREAS, Corporations are not and never have been human 44
beings, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human 45
beings and governments as our legal creations; and 46

WHEREAS, The recent decision of the United States 47
Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election* 48
Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), which rolled back the legal 49
limits on spending in the electoral process, creates an 50
unequal playing field and allows unlimited spending by 51
wealthy individuals, corporations, and other entities to 52

influence elections, candidate selection, and policy 53
decisions and to sway votes and compels elected officials to 54
divert their attention from the People's business or even to 55
vote against the interest of their human constituents in 56
order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own 57
reelection; and 58

WHEREAS, The judicial interpretation that construes 59
spending money in political campaigns as speech is contrary 60
to the notion of one person, one vote and allows those with 61
the most money to have an unfair advantage in a political 62
system that should ensure that all citizens have equal access 63
to the political process and an equal ability to influence 64
the outcome of elections; and 65

WHEREAS, Money is property, not speech; and 66

WHEREAS, Large corporations own most of America's mass 67
media and use that media as a megaphone to express loudly 68
their political agenda and to convince Americans that their 69
primary role is that of consumers, rather than sovereign 70
citizens with rights and responsibilities within our 71
democracy; and 72

WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of people and municipalities 73
across the nation are joining with the Move to Amend campaign 74
to call for an amendment to the United States Constitution to 75
abolish corporate personhood and the doctrine of money as 76
speech; now therefore be it 77

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Ohio calls on 78
legislators at the state and federal levels to join the tens 79
of thousands of citizens, grassroots organizations, and local 80
governments across the country in the Move to Amend campaign 81
to call for an amendment to the United States Constitution to 82
abolish corporate personhood and the doctrine of money as 83
speech and thereby return our democracy, our elections, and 84

our communities to America's human persons and thus claim our 85
sovereign right of self-governance; and be it further 86

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Ohio calls on 87
other communities and jurisdictions to join with it in this 88
action by adopting similar resolutions; and be it further 89

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Ohio supports 90
education to increase public awareness of the threats to our 91
democracy posed by corporate personhood and encourages lively 92
discussion to build understanding and consensus to take 93
appropriate community and municipal actions to democratically 94
respond to these threats; and be it further 95

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 96
authenticated copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the 97
House of Representatives of the State of Ohio and to Ohio's 98
congressional delegation. 99