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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4004

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Wylie, Tarleton, Lytton, S. Hunt, Van De Wege, Kirby, Sawyer, Riccelli, Robinson, Moscoso, Hurst, Jenkins, Farrell, Walkinshaw, Gregerson, Cody, Sells, Peterson, Takko, Appleton, Goodman, Kilduff, Moeller, Carlyle, Morris, Tharinger, Fitzgibbon, Bergquist, Stanford, Dunshee, Pollet, Fey, Reykdal, and Ormsby

Read first time 02/02/15. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1            TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
2 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
3 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE MAJORITY LEADER  
4 OF THE SENATE AND MINORITY LEADERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES:

6            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
8 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

9            WHEREAS, Congress and the several states have for many years  
10 exercised the authority to regulate and restrict the size of  
11 financial contributions to political candidates and ballot issues, to  
12 bar the anonymous use of such funds, and to require that individual  
13 candidates approve publicly the messages used on their behalf; and

14            WHEREAS, There has been a sudden and substantial increase in  
15 large financial contributions, in donations made and used  
16 anonymously, and in donations made to entities nominally separate  
17 from the candidates and outside their control to affect the state and  
18 federal elections in 2012, and such contributions may reasonably be  
19 expected to grow in number and size; and

20            WHEREAS, Expenditures that are extremely large, expenditures that  
21 are made anonymously, and expenditures made by entities nominally  
22 separate from and outside the control of individual candidates  
23 threaten the integrity of the election process by diluting the voices

1 of other donors, distorting public discourse, and diminishing the  
2 constitutionally protected right to vote;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
4 congress of the United States exercise the authority granted to it  
5 under Article V of the Constitution to pass and send to the several  
6 states for ratification an amendment to the Constitution to return to  
7 Congress and the legislatures of the states the authority to regulate  
8 the size and timing of contributions to election campaigns, whether  
9 made to candidates or to ballot measures, and whether such  
10 contributions are made directly to campaigns or to groups making  
11 independent expenditures related to such campaigns, the authority to  
12 distinguish between natural persons and other artificial entities  
13 created by law, including by prohibiting such entities from spending  
14 money to influence elections, and the authority to require timely  
15 public disclosure of the source and amount of all such contributions.

16 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
17 transmitted to the Majority Leader of the Senate and Minority Leaders  
18 of the Senate and House of Representatives, the President of the  
19 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
20 and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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