

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT SIGNATURE GATHERING ON I-1329

WHEREAS the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* (2010) and other recent decisions, enunciated the novel and unprecedented principles that corporations are entitled to political rights and privileges tantamount to those of individual human beings, and that their use of money is a form of protected free speech; and

WHEREAS those decisions, and *Citizens United* in particular, invalidated campaign spending reform laws enacted by bipartisan majorities in Congress and thereby unleashed an unprecedented torrent of special interest money into our political process; and

WHEREAS poll after poll has established that the American public supports overturning those misguided rulings, the continuation of which poses an increasing threat to a democratic republic of, by and for the people; and

WHEREAS the corporations plank of the 2012 Washington State Democratic Party Platform begins with this statement: *We believe that corporations, as artificial entities, are not entitled to the Constitutional rights of people. It's time to restore responsibility and to limit the power of money to influence politics.*

Additionally, in the "We call for" enumerations, it states:

A constitutional amendment to establish that corporations shall not be considered as "persons" for purposes of political activity and to reverse the pernicious ruling that money equals speech..

It further states:

We oppose.... The Supreme Court precedent that corporations are people; and

WHEREAS the former Republican State Chair serves as a board member of Citizens United and the Republican majority in the Washington State Senate has thwarted any effort to act on a resolution to Congress calling for a constitutional. amendment, and

WHEREAS WAmend (Washington Coalition for a Constitutional Amendment) filed an initiative which the Washington Attorney General and Secretary of State approved for circulation for signatures as Initiative 1329, the summary of which reads:

This measure would state that recent rulings by the United States Supreme Court that address limits on government power to regulate political contributions necessitate amendment of the federal Constitution. The measure would urge Washington's Congressional delegation to propose amendments to clarify that constitutional rights including rights to free speech, apply only to natural persons and not to corporations, and to authorize federal and state governments to limit, and require disclosure of political contributions and expenditures.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 45th Legislative District Democrats support the gathering of signatures on Initiative 1329 petitions and urge our fellow Democrats and other friends and associates to help collect signatures to place it on the 2014 fall ballot.

ADOPTED AT THE MARCH 9TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT CAUCUS