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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REVERSE THE
DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING OF "CITIZENS UNITED VS. FEDERAL
ELECTION COMMISSION"

Introduced By: Representative Thomas Winfield

Date Introduced: May 18, 2011

Referred To: House Judiciary

1 WHEREAS, We the people adopted and ratified the United States Constitution to protect
2 the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations; and

3 WHEREAS, Corporations are not people, but instead are entities created by the law of
4 states and nations; and

5 WHEREAS, For the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has
6 erroneously transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to
7 evade and invalidate the people's laws; and

8 WHEREAS, This corporate misuse of the First Amendment and Constitution has reached
9 an extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal*
10 *Election Commission*; and

11 WHEREAS, *Citizens United* overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations
12 from spending corporate general treasury funds in our elections; and

13 WHEREAS, *Citizens United* unleashes a torrent of corporate money in our political
14 process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history; and

15 WHEREAS, *Citizens United* purports to invalidate state laws and even state
16 Constitutional provisions separating corporate money from elections; and

17 WHEREAS, *Citizens United* presents a serious and direct threat to our republican
18 democracy; and

19 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the

1 people and states of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to
2 correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart
3 of the democracy and republican self government; and

4 WHEREAS, The people and states of the United States of America have strengthened the
5 nation and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the amendment process throughout our
6 history, including in seven of the ten decades of the 20th century, and including to reverse seven
7 erroneous Supreme Court decisions; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
9 Providence Plantations calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the States for
10 ratification a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court decision in *Citizens Untied*
11 *v. Federal Elections Commission* and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the
12 people; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Rhode Island's Congressional Delegation.

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