

Dear Massachusetts Legislator,

We thank the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs for favorably reporting the We the People Act (H.3208 and S.2163). Here's why it deserves your support:

- Constitutional rights are for people, not corporations. When corporations can use our constitutional rights in court, they can nullify democratically enacted public interest laws, such as the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act.
- Political spending is not speech. It is a megaphone. When corporations and billionaires can use their vast financial resources to influence our elected representatives, the voices of average Americans get drowned out, undermining public faith in good government.

For the first two centuries of our history, constitutional amendments that overturned harmful Supreme Court decisions made our democracy ever more inclusive by ending slavery, giving women the right to vote, abolishing poll taxes, and lowering the voting age to 18. However, since the 1970s Supreme Court decisions have effectively turned the clock back. Now, the wealthiest 1% of the population have far more influence over our political system than average citizens. The consequences are apparent in the daily headlines.

The first three words of the Constitution are "We the People." If we aspire to government of, by and for the people, we urgently need a constitutional amendment to reserve constitutional rights for real people, and end the corrupting influence of big money in politics. Only then will we be able to effectively confront the climate crisis, unequal healthcare, gun carnage, and other dire problems.

In 2012, Massachusetts became one of 20 states requesting Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to overturn Supreme Court decisions such as *Citizens United v. FEC*, but Congress has not acted. It's time for Massachusetts to turn up the pressure by joining the other five states that have applied for a limited amendment-proposing convention on the topic of purging the undue influence of powerful special interests from our political system.

The first report of the Citizens Commission released in January stated, *"After significant review of a broad collection of materials, the Commission supports the initiative for a limited-purpose convention under Article V. The intent is to either propose the amendment or to force the issue in Congress. The Commission encourages the Massachusetts Legislature, the Governor, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to proactively promote this process. While the intention of this recommendation comes with the goal of spurring an Article V convention, our hope is that serious movement in this area would spur Congress to action, as it has historically. The Commission supports a Massachusetts application for such a limited-purpose amendment convention."*

10 years have passed since *Citizens United*. Our democracy gets more corrupt every year. Please help us pass the We the People Act (H.3208 and S.2163) by calling on the leadership to bring this bill to a vote this session.

For more information on the amendment we need, and a limited convention for proposing it, see:

<http://bit.do/CitizensCommission>.

