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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 232 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY SCHROEDER, DALEY, FREEMAN, HENNESSEY, McNEILL,  
SCHWEYER, THOMAS, TOMLINSON, TOPPER AND SAMUELSON,  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to propose an amendment  
2 to the Constitution of the United States to establish that  
3 election spending may be regulated to ensure that every  
4 citizen may exercise the rights to free speech, political  
5 participation and meaningful representation.

6 WHEREAS, We the People have a compelling interest in  
7 fostering robust political debate and self-governance, securing  
8 the liberty and political equality of our citizens, guarding  
9 against corruption and advancing federalism; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the past few decades, the Supreme Court of the  
11 United States has gradually come to equate election spending  
12 with "free speech"; and

13 WHEREAS, Election spending has the potential to drown out  
14 speech rights for all citizens, narrow debate, weaken federalism  
15 and self-governance in the states and increase the risk of  
16 systemic corruption; and

17 WHEREAS, The states and Congress should have the ability to  
18 enact reasonable regulations regarding election spending; and

19 WHEREAS, The framers wisely granted the states ultimate power

1 to amend the Constitution of the United States when necessary to  
2 make it and our union ever more perfect and to protect and  
3 preserve self-governance and liberty; therefore be it

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
5 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United  
6 States to propose and send to the states for ratification an  
7 amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify  
8 that states may regulate the spending of money to influence  
9 elections in the states and that Congress may regulate the  
10 spending of money to influence Federal elections, and that in so  
11 doing the states and Congress may distinguish between natural  
12 persons and legally recognized entities such as corporations and  
13 government authorities; and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
15 the Majority Leader of the Senate of the United States, the  
16 Minority Leader of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker  
17 of the House of Representatives of the United States, the  
18 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives of the United  
19 States and each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.