



BILL: SJ0007

BILL TITLE: United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Democracy Amendment

BILL SPONSOR: Senator Pinsky

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: FAVORABLE

HEARING DATE: 2/18/21

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SJ0007

Represent Maryland is a grassroots group of Marylanders committed to fighting for democracy and reducing the influence of big money in politics. Although our voter roles have grown over the last 150 years to include nearly all citizens of the USA, access to the resources needed to successfully run for public office has narrowed. Currently, successful candidates must have connections to and be willing to accept large money donations from the smallest group of people or be able to fund their campaign themselves. There is nothing democratic about that. Through courting big money donors, elected officials remain out of touch with the needs and struggles of the average voter, which is very apparent in policy decisions that help corporations and the wealthy while putting more burdens on the working class. SJ0007, which advocates for an Article V convention to discuss a Constitutional Democracy Amendment - declaring that corporations do not have constitutional rights and that money is not speech and therefore can be regulated, would be a significant step towards curbing the power of the ultra-rich and large corporations.

If added to the Constitution, this amendment would protect democracy by opening it up to “the many” rather than “the few”. This amendment aligns with Represent Maryland’s goals, so we support passing it by any means necessary through the convention or congress. Due to the extremely high threshold required to ratify an amendment, we do not agree with concerns about a “runaway” convention. In addition, we believe widespread support for this resolution could push Congress to pass the Democracy Amendment in advance of a potential convention.

In summary, Represent Maryland supports SJ0007 and a Constitutional Democracy Amendment, so we urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Cristi Demnowicz, Chair
Represent Maryland
Maryland Voter-D7

Represent Maryland is a grassroots anti-corruption group of citizen advocates that #FightForDemocracy in Maryland.

Our democracy solutions include: Public Election Funds, Independent Redistricting, Special Elections, Ranked Choice Voting, Increased Ethics and Transparency, and Increased Voter Participation.

Learn more about our work at www.RepresentMaryland.org
Authorized by Represent Maryland PAC, T Miller, Treasurer

