

Senators,

I support **SJ7**, US Constitution - Amendments Convention – Democracy Amendment.

We know that money has a disproportionate influence and corrosive effect on politics. It is undermining our Democracy. This became an order of magnitude worse with the *Citizens United* decision. That decision eviscerated both the Maryland Legislature's and the US Congress' tools to control the undue influences corrupting our system.

Unfortunately, because it was a Supreme Court decision, the only avenue remaining to redress the problem is an Amendment to the US Constitution. Please note that Representative Jamie Raskin, a Constitutional law expert, helped write the original version of this Resolution.

I am aware that there are two paths to create such an Amendment. One path starts with Congress and the other path starts with the state Legislatures. BOTH paths require $\frac{3}{4}$ of the state legislatures to approve the final Amendment.

Fortunately, the two paths need not be conflicting. We can and should support both paths, because they can build on each other. However, SJ7 is the only path that the *Maryland Legislature* can directly influence.

I urge you to pass SJ7 and make an unequivocal statement that Maryland vigorously supports democracy, so we can ultimately reverse the corrosive effects *Citizen's United*.

Thank you.

Kenneth S Crandell