

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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REPRESENTATIVE BERTA GARDNER
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Sponsor Statement

Resolution Relating to Limiting Campaign Expenditures

Many Americans recognize that the ability of large contributions from corporations, wealthy individuals and organizations to political candidates harms the ability of average citizens to have a voice in their own government. Prior to the landmark United States Supreme Court ruling of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 130 S. Ct. 876 (2010), unlimited independent expenditures from corporations and unions was prohibited. Now, corporations and unions can make unlimited independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate for public office.

Additionally, a prior ruling, *Buckely v. Vallejo*, allowed individuals to make unlimited independent expenditures, the effects of which we are now seeing in the flood of Super PAC ads that are, this political season, distorting the political process.

Unless the United States Supreme Court reverses these rulings, the only way to reverse the harmful effects of these decisions is to amend the Constitution of the United States.

Therefore, this resolution calls upon the Alaska State Legislature to urge the United States Congress and the President of the United States to work across party lines and propose a constitutional amendment to prohibit corporations, wealthy individuals and unions from making unlimited independent expenditures.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.