

Testimony of Michael Donnelly in Support of:

HJ 64 RESOLUTION PETITIONING CONGRESS TO CONVENE AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION  
TO OVERTURN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN CITIZENS UNITED  
V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

GAE Committee Public Hearing  
Monday March 2, 1pm  
Room 2A

Chairman Jutila, Chairman Cassano, Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, for the record my name is Michael Donnelly of Ridgefield, CT and I am here to testify in support of HJ 64 RESOLUTION PETITIONING CONGRESS TO CONVENE AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION TO OVERTURN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.

Please pass HJ 64. Democracy is the form of government that allows for the greatest wealth, economic gains and best standard of living known in the world. Countries ruled by a few, or even a few hundred are not democracies, they function more like feudal societies with all the economic gains captured by a few. Governments in these countries participate in cronyism where the government steers money, benefits and contracts to the ruling elite, economic growth stagnates and the population resents the ruling elite.

Sadly the U.S. is becoming more like the second example rather than the vibrant democracy of generations prior. Our Congress is widely hated, less than 10% of the nation approves of their actions. Our Congress spends five to seven hours per day cajoling the wealthy into donating to their cause, and in return they provide favors. In a less direct payback, since Congress only speaks to this tiny portion of America, they only see the issues of the day through that lens, and naturally they only address issues that speak to a tiny percent of the nation.

In short Americans know Congress is corrupt, but are confused as to what corrupted them. Our representatives are all too human, they respond to incentives and when 95% of those who get re-elected have more money, the incentive will always be to raise more money and to spend more and more of their time with those with money. Our Congressional representatives are not bad people, they are forced to operate in a corrupt system, we need to overturn Citizen's United and reclaim our democracy.

Fortunately the founding fathers created a document of singular genius. Provided to us within the Constitution is the ability to side steep a corrupt Congress. It is up to the people via the states to perform our Constitutionally mandated obligation. We must rise to the occasion and perform this service as outlined by our founding fathers. A Congress hated by 90% of America is long past due for

reform, by contrast King George was still well loved by 35% of the nation. Congress will not reform itself, we must rise and protect our democracy and add this protection to the Constitution in the form of a new amendment.

I trust the American people, I trust the representatives from 34 states will craft a bi-partisan solution acceptable to win passage in 38 states across the nation to rid us of Citizen's United and rid us the corrupting influence of money in politics.

Michael Donnelly

Ridgefield, CT