

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Ten

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## RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the  
2 free speech rights of people, not corporations;

3 WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has transformed  
4 the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate  
5 democratically-enacted reforms;

6 WHEREAS, this corporate takeover of the First Amendment has reached its extreme conclusion  
7 in the United States Supreme Court's recent ruling in Citizens United v. FEC;

8 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC overturned  
9 longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in  
10 our elections;

11 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC will now  
12 unleash a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign  
13 expenditure totals in United States history;

14 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC presents a  
15 serious and direct threat to our democracy;

16 WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment  
17 process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go  
18 to the heart of our democracy and self-government;

19 NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
20 HEREBY CALLS UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO  
21 THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO RESTORE  
22 THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE.