

**As Offered**

**131st General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2015-2016**

**H. R. No. 503**

**Representatives Smith, K., Antonio**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Boggs, Curtin, Phillips, Strahorn, Lepore-Hagan,  
Boyd, Rogers, Bocchieri, Johnson, G., Leland, Sheehy, Sykes, Fedor**

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**A R E S O L U T I O N**

To call on legislators at the state and federal 1  
level and other communities and jurisdictions to 2  
support an amendment to the United States 3  
Constitution that would abolish corporate 4  
personhood and the doctrine of money as speech. 5

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
OHIO:**

WHEREAS, Government of, by, and for the people has long 6  
been a cherished American value, and We the People's inalienable 7  
right of self-government is guaranteed in the United States 8  
Constitution and the Declaration of Independence; and 9

WHEREAS, Free and fair elections are essential to democracy 10  
and effective self-governance; and 11

WHEREAS, Persons are rightfully recognized as human beings 12  
whose essential needs include clean water and safe and secure 13  
food; and 14

WHEREAS, Corporations are entirely human-made legal 15  
entities created by express permission of We the People and our 16  
government; and 17

WHEREAS, Corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist 18

simultaneously in many nations, need only profit for survival, 19  
and exist solely through the legal charter imposed by the 20  
government of We the People; and 21

WHEREAS, The great wealth of large corporations allows them 22  
to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings and 23  
communities, thus denying We the People's exercise of our 24  
constitutional rights; and 25

WHEREAS, Corporations are not mentioned in the 26  
Constitution, and We the People have never granted 27  
constitutional rights to corporations, nor have we decreed that 28  
corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of We the 29  
People of the United States; and 30

WHEREAS, Interpretation of the United States Constitution 31  
by appointed Supreme Court justices to include corporations in 32  
the term "persons" has long denied We the People's exercise of 33  
self-governance by endowing corporations with constitutional 34  
protections intended for We the People; and 35

WHEREAS, The judicial bestowal of civil and political 36  
rights upon corporations can usurp basic human and 37  
constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons, and also 38  
empowers corporations to sue municipal and state governments for 39  
adopting laws that violate "corporate rights," even when those 40  
laws serve to protect and defend the rights of human persons and 41  
communities; and 42

WHEREAS, Corporations are not and never have been human 43  
beings, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings 44  
and governments as our legal creations; and 45

WHEREAS, The recent decision of the United States Supreme 46  
Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 47  
U.S. 310 (2010), which rolled back the legal limits on spending 48  
in the electoral process, creates an unequal playing field and 49

allows unlimited spending by wealthy individuals, corporations, 50  
and other entities to influence elections, candidate selection, 51  
and policy decisions and to sway votes and compels elected 52  
officials to divert their attention from the People's business 53  
or even to vote against the interest of their human constituents 54  
in order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own re- 55  
election; and 56

WHEREAS, The judicial interpretation that construes 57  
spending money in political campaigns as speech is contrary to 58  
the notion of one person, one vote and allows those with the 59  
most money to have an unfair advantage in a political system 60  
that should ensure that all citizens have equal access to the 61  
political process and an equal ability to influence the outcome 62  
of elections; and 63

WHEREAS, Money is property, not speech; and 64

WHEREAS, Large corporations own most of America's mass 65  
media and use that media as a megaphone to express loudly their 66  
political agenda and to convince Americans that their primary 67  
role is that of consumers, rather than sovereign citizens with 68  
rights and responsibilities within our democracy; and 69

WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of people and municipalities 70  
across the nation are joining with the Move to Amend campaign to 71  
call for an amendment to the United States Constitution to 72  
abolish corporate personhood and the doctrine of money as 73  
speech; now therefore be it 74

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the State of 75  
Ohio calls on legislators at the state and federal levels to 76  
join the tens of thousands of citizens, grassroots 77  
organizations, and local governments across the country in the 78  
Move to Amend campaign to call for an amendment to the United 79  
States Constitution to abolish corporate personhood and the 80  
doctrine of money as speech and thereby return our democracy, 81

our elections, and our communities to America's human persons 82  
and thus claim our sovereign right of self-governance; and be it 83  
further 84

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the State of 85  
Ohio calls on other communities and jurisdictions to join with 86  
it in this action by adopting similar resolutions; and be it 87  
further 88

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the State of 89  
Ohio supports education to increase public awareness of the 90  
threats to our democracy posed by corporate personhood and 91  
encourages lively discussion to build understanding and 92  
consensus to take appropriate community and municipal actions to 93  
democratically respond to these threats; and be it further 94

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 95  
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 96  
President of the Senate of the State of Ohio and to Ohio's 97  
congressional delegation. 98