

# Summary: HJR 48 -- 115<sup>th</sup> Congress (2017-2018)

Bill summaries by Congressional Research Services Introduced in House (01/30/2017)

#### **Constitutional Amendment**

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment providing that:

- (1) the rights protected by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only;
- (2) artificial entities (such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities established by the laws of any state, the United States, or any foreign state) shall have no rights under the Constitution and are subject to regulation by the people through federal, state, or local law; and
- (3) the privileges of such artificial entities shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

The amendment requires federal, state, and local government to:

- (1) regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process and that no person gains, as a result of that person's money, ... [a lot] more access or ability to influence the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure; and
- (2) require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed. The judiciary is prohibited from construing the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-joint-resolution/48

## What does this bill do?

Yes	No	Establishes only natural persons have inalienable rights			
Yes	No	Confirms government power to grant corporate privileges			
Yes	No	Confirms corporate privileges are not inalienable rights			
Yes	No	Establishes that money is not speech			
Yes	No	Confirms government power to regulate campaign financing			
Yes	No	Confirms government power to require donor reporting			
What's missing? This proposed amendment does not address					
What's added? This proposed amendment also addresses:					





# **Summary: HJR 31 -- 115th Congress (2017-2018)**

Bill summaries by Congressional Research Services Introduced in House (01/24/2017)

## **Constitutional Amendment**

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing Congress and the states to set reasonable limits on the raising and spending of money by candidates and others to influence elections.

The amendment grants Congress and the states the power to implement and enforce this amendment by appropriate legislation. They are allowed to distinguish between natural persons and corporations or other artificial entities created by law, including by prohibiting such entities from spending money to influence elections.

This joint resolution declares that nothing in this amendment shall be construed to grant Congress or the states the power to abridge the freedom of the press.

www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-joint-resolution/31

## What does this bill do?

Yes	No	Ends inalienable rights for artificial entities				
Yes	No	Confirms power of government to grant corporate privileges				
Yes	No	Confirms corporate privileges are not inalienable rights				
Yes	No	Ends money = speech				
Yes	No	Confirms power of government to regulate campaign financing				
Yes	No	Confirms power of government to require donor reporting				
What's missing? This proposed amendment does not address:						
What's added? This proposed amendment also addresses:						





# **Summary: SJR 20 -- 115th Congress (2017-2018)**

Bill summaries by Congressional Research Services Introduced in Senate (02/03/2017)

## **Constitutional Amendment**

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment declaring that:

- (1) the rights enumerated in the Constitution and other rights retained by the people are the rights of natural persons;
- (2) the terms "people," "person," and "citizen" as used in the Constitution do not include corporate entities established by the laws of any state, the United States, or any foreign state; and
- (3) corporate entities are subject to such regulation as the people, through representatives in Congress and state representatives, may determine reasonable, consistent with the powers of Congress and the states.

The amendment prohibits the Constitution from being construed to limit such rights enumerated in the Constitution and other rights retained by the people, which are unalienable.

www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/20

## What does this bill do?

Yes	No	Ends inalienable rights for artificial entities				
Yes	No	Confirms power of government to grant corporate privileges				
Yes	No	Confirms corporate privileges are not inalienable rights				
Yes	No	Ends money = speech				
Yes	No	Confirms power of government to regulate campaign financing				
Yes	No	Confirms power of government to require donor reporting				
What's missing? This proposed amendment does not address:						
What's added? This proposed amendment also addresses:						

