

**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1617**

By Senators Holland, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Haley,  
Hensley and Steineger

3-8

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging congress to pass an  
2 amendment to the United States constitution to abolish corporate  
3 personhood.

4  
5 WHEREAS, Government was established to provide a social contract  
6 between naturally born persons; and

7 WHEREAS, The founders of the republic and the signers of the  
8 United States constitution clearly and emphatically intended freedom of  
9 speech to mean freedom to communicate with and by naturally born  
10 persons either directly or through the free press; and

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

13 WHEREAS, Corporations are entirely human-made legal fictions  
14 created by the express permission of the citizens of this country and its  
15 government; and

16 WHEREAS, Corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist  
17 simultaneously in many nations, need only profit for survival and exist  
18 solely through the legal charter imposed by the government; and

19 WHEREAS, Corporations are not mentioned in the United States  
20 constitution, have never been granted constitutional rights nor have ever  
21 been granted authority that exceeds that of the citizens of this country;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court ruled on January 21,  
24 2010, in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, that  
25 corporations have the same first amendment rights as naturally born  
26 persons, and that corporations can spend unlimited amounts of money on  
27 elections; and

28 WHEREAS, Large corporations have used their so-called rights to  
29 overturn democratically enacted laws passed at municipal, state and  
30 federal levels aimed at curbing corporate abuse, thus rendering local  
31 governments ineffective in protecting citizens against corporate harms to  
32 the environment, to health, to workers, to independent business and to  
33 local and regional economies; and

34 WHEREAS, There is an unequal playing field that allows  
35 corporations to spend without limit to influence elections, candidate

1 selection and policy decisions and to sway votes; and

2 WHEREAS, Large corporations own most of America's mass media  
3 and use that media as a megaphone to loudly express such corporations'  
4 political agenda and to convince the citizens of this country that the  
5 citizen's role is that of consumer, rather than a sovereign citizen with  
6 rights and responsibilities within our democracy, and this forces citizens  
7 to toil to discern the truth behind headlines and election campaigning; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court is misguided in  
9 principle, and wrong on the law, because in a democracy the people rule:  
10 Now, therefore,

11 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of*  
12 *Representatives concurring therein:* That congress is hereby urged to  
13 immediately transmit to the several states for ratification an amendment  
14 to the United States constitution to abolish corporate personhood by  
15 establishing that the term "person" refers only to naturally born persons,  
16 returning our democracy, our elections and our communities to America's  
17 naturally born persons, thus reclaiming our sovereign right to self-  
18 governance; and

19 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an  
20 enrolled copy of this resolution to each member of the Kansas  
21 Congressional Delegation.