

forced to resort to, in turn, create new opportunities for abuse.

Even without a constitutional amendment, we can try to make some progress. For example, I think we made some decent progress on the McCain-Feingold legislation, even despite the Court's decisions since 2002 narrowing the reach of that law. But we cannot enact truly comprehensive legislation that will get to the heart of the problem under current court rulings. I wish we could. I have long supported a clean elections system of public financing for Congressional campaigns which would integrate spending limits, citizen financing, and other basic reforms. That is the way I think we should go. There are other approaches. But the fact is—and I am sorry for this—that unless the Supreme Court again reverses itself, we cannot get the comprehensive legislation we really need unless we first adopt an amendment to the Constitution.

This amendment is neutral on what kind of regulation of campaigns would be allowed. It simply authorizes such regulation, and leaves it to Congress and state legislatures to determine what might be appropriate. That is where such decisions should be made on these issues: by the people's representatives in Congress and in state legislatures. That is why I think amending the Constitution and enabling Congress to make those decisions is the first step if we are to make real progress on this front.

Others will argue for a narrower constitutional amendment to focus primarily on the issue of corporate expenditures. That is another way to address the issue, though I believe it would still leave many unanswered questions about Congress' ability to regulate broadly in this area. We should have a full and robust debate about all of the options.

Someday we may adopt this idea, if the situation continues to run out of hand. And we may look back to this court decision in 2010 and mark it as an historic watershed, a catalyst for major change. I sincerely hope that will be true, for the sake of this institution and our democratic process, and for the sake of our country. I commend the amendment to my colleagues' attention, and urge them to consider co-sponsoring it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. J. RES. 28

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years after the date of its submission by the Congress:

“ARTICLE—

“SECTION 1. Congress shall have power to regulate the raising and spending of money with respect to Federal elections, including through setting limits on—

“(1) the amount of contributions to candidates for nomination for election to, or for election to, Federal office; and

“(2) the amount of expenditures that may be made by, in support of, or in opposition to such candidates.

“SECTION 2. A State shall have power to regulate the raising and spending of money with respect to State elections, including through setting limits on—

“(1) the amount of contributions to candidates for nomination for election to, or for election to, State office; and

“(2) the amount of expenditures that may be made by, in support of, or in opposition to such candidates.

“SECTION 3. Congress shall have power to implement and enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 421—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE DAY”

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BYRD, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. BENNETT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 421

Whereas “National Guard Youth Challenge Day” will be celebrated on February 24, 2010;

Whereas high school dropouts need guidance, encouragement, and avenues toward self-sufficiency and success;

Whereas over 1,300,000 students drop out of high school each year, costing this Nation more than \$335,000,000,000 in lost wages, revenues, and productivity over the lifetimes of these individuals;

Whereas the life expectancy for a high school dropout is 9 years less than that of a high school graduate, and a high school dropout can expect to earn about \$19,000 each year, compared to approximately \$28,000 for a high school graduate;

Whereas 54 percent of high school dropouts were jobless during an average month in 2008, with 40 percent having no job for the entire year;

Whereas each annual class of high school dropouts cost this Nation over \$17,000,000,000 in publicly subsidized health care over the course of their lives;

Whereas approximately 90 percent of individuals in prisons throughout the United States are high school dropouts;

Whereas the goal of the National Guard Youth Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is to improve the education, life skills, and employment potential of high school dropouts in the United States through public awareness, scholarships, higher education assistance, and job development programs;

Whereas the National Guard Youth Challenge Program provides military-based training, supervised work experience, assistance in obtaining a high school diploma or equivalent degree, and development of leadership qualities, as well as promotion of citizenship, fellowship, service to their community, life skills training, health and physical education, positive relationships with adults and peers, and career planning;

Whereas the National Guard Youth Challenge Program represents a successful joint effort between States and the Federal Government;

Whereas since 1993, the National Guard Youth Challenge Program has developed 32 programs in 27 States and Puerto Rico;

Whereas since 1993, over 92,850 young individuals have successfully graduated from the program, with 80 percent earning their high school diploma or GED certificate, 24 percent going to college, 18 percent joining the military, and 57 percent entering the workforce with career jobs;

Whereas the National Guard Youth Challenge Program has successfully helped high school dropouts in this Nation; and

Whereas the National Guard Youth Challenge Program can play a larger role in providing assistance to the youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of “National Guard Youth Challenge Day”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe “National Guard Youth Challenge Day” on February 24, 2010, with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3326. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1299, to make technical corrections to the laws affecting certain administrative authorities of the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes.

SA 3327. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3326 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 1299, supra.

SA 3328. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1299, supra.

SA 3329. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1299, supra.

SA 3330. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3329 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 1299, supra.

SA 3331. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3961, to reform the Medicare SGR payment system for physicians and to reinstate and update the Pay-As-You-Go requirement of budget neutrality on new tax and mandatory spending legislation, enforced by the threat of annual, automatic sequestration.

SA 3332. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3961, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3326. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1299, to make technical corrections to the laws affecting certain administrative authorities of the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, insert the following:

The provisions of this act shall become effective 5 days after enactment

SA 3327. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3326 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 1299, to make technical corrections to the laws affecting certain administrative authorities of the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “5” and insert “4”.

SA 3328. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1299, to