

# The Citizens Over Corporations Amendment

Senator Adam Schiff

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The Citizens Over Corporations Amendment would **overturn the Supreme Court's ill-considered opinion in *Citizens United v. FEC***, as well as **other precedents which have made it impossible to regulate billions in campaign spending**. We do not recommend this step lightly, but numerous irresponsible court decisions pose such a threat to the health of our democracy that we must act.

This Amendment would address a flawed legal theory going back to the Supreme Court's 1976 decision in *Buckley v. Valeo* which established an artificial distinction between campaign contributions and expenditures – permitting some regulation of the former and precluding any meaningful regulation of the latter.

## THE CITIZENS OVER CORPORATIONS AMENDMENT WOULD:

- Ensure the ability of Congress or the States to propose reasonable viewpoint-neutral limitations on the raising and spending of money by candidates and others to influence elections
- Distinguish between natural persons and corporations or other artificial entities created by law, including by allowing Congress or the State to prohibit such entities from spending money to influence elections
- Allow — but not require — public financing of campaigns when states choose to enact such laws
- Take further steps to protect the freedom of the press

We have all witnessed the pernicious impact of unrestrained spending on campaigns. The tidal wave of independent expenditures creates an unmistakable appearance of corruption and impropriety.

Americans will assume, perhaps with good reason, that the levers of our government can be bought by the wealthiest members or incorporated entities of our society. This impression will ultimately demean and weaken our democracy.