

HOUSE No. 3985

Filed by Mr. Fernandes of Milford. February 3, 2016.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

Resolutions URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT AND PUT FORTH FOR RATIFICATION AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING.

1 WHEREAS, FAIR AND FREE ELECTIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO DEMOCRACY
2 AND EFFECTIVE SELF-GOVERNMENT; AND

3 WHEREAS, CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS ARE KEY TOOLS FOR FEDERAL AND
4 STATE GOVERNMENTS IN ACHIEVING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS; AND

5 WHEREAS, NOTHING IN THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION SHALL BE
6 CONSTRUED TO FORBID CONGRESS OR THE STATES FROM IMPOSING
7 REASONABLE CONTENT-NEUTRAL LIMITATIONS ON PRIVATE CAMPAIGN
8 CONTRIBUTIONS OR INDEPENDENT ELECTION EXPENDITURES, OR FROM
9 ENACTING SYSTEMS OF PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING, INCLUDING THOSE
10 DESIGNED TO RESTRICT THE INFLUENCE OF PRIVATE WEALTH BY OFFSETTING
11 CAMPAIGN SPENDING OR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES WITH INCREASED
12 PUBLIC FUNDING; THEREFORE BE IT

13 RESOLVED, THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES RESPECTFULLY URGE THE MEMBERS OF THE
15 MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE LEADERS OF THE
16 CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT H. J.RESOLUTION 58, PROPOSING
17 AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO
18 THE AUTHORITY OF CONGRESS AND THE STATES TO REGULATE CONTRIBUTIONS
19 AND EXPENDITURES IN POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND TO ENACT PUBLIC
20 FINANCING SYSTEMS FOR SUCH CAMPAIGNS; AND BE IT FURTHER

21 RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED BY THE
22 CLERK OF THE HOUSE TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.