

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0003

Federal single subject constitutional amendment.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Laursen, Allen, Blackburn, Hallinan, Henderson, Lindholm and Miller and Senator(s) Case

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to call a convention
2 of the several states for the purpose of proposing an
3 amendment to the Constitution of the United States to
4 require that every bill enacted by Congress shall embrace
5 only one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its
6 title.

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8 WHEREAS, each measure before a legislative body should pass
9 on its own merits without depending on legislative support
10 for other unrelated measures to achieve the required number
11 of votes for passage; and

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13 WHEREAS, a single-subject constitutional requirement
14 carries out this principle by prohibiting a legislative

1 body from enacting a bill that embraces more than one (1)
2 subject; and

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4 WHEREAS, forty-one (41) of the fifty (50) states, including
5 Wyoming, have a single-subject provision in their
6 respective state constitutions, and the legislatures and
7 citizens of these states have benefitted from a single-
8 subject requirement; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States is the
11 supreme law of the United States of America, touching the
12 lives of every citizen in the several states, but is
13 missing this important provision; and

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15 WHEREAS, this country's national debt continues to increase
16 and Congress is currently searching for a solution; and

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18 WHEREAS, a federal single-subject constitutional amendment
19 would provide the means to limit "pork barrel" spending,
20 control the phenomenon of legislating through riders, limit
21 omnibus legislation, prevent public surprise at the content
22 of bills and promote the institutional accountability of
23 Congress and its members; and

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2 WHEREAS, it is Wyoming's hope that Congress will conduct
3 its business in a more productive, efficient, transparent
4 and less acrimonious way with a single-subject
5 constitutional amendment; and

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7 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States
8 makes provision for amending the Constitution based on
9 proposals made by Congress or on the application of the
10 legislatures of two-thirds (2/3) of the several states for
11 a convention and if the amendment is ratified by the
12 legislatures of three-fourths (3/4) of the several states
13 or by conventions in three-fourths (3/4) thereof.

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15 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*
16 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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18 **Section 1.**

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20 (a) That the Legislature of the State of Wyoming
21 hereby applies to the Congress of the United States
22 pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United
23 States to request Congress to convene a convention of the

1 several states to develop a constitutional amendment that
2 provides that no bill of Congress embracing more than one
3 (1) subject shall become law and that the bill's subject
4 shall be clearly expressed in the bill's title.

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6 (b) That this resolution is withdrawn, nullified and
7 superseded to the same effect as if it had never been
8 passed, and is retroactive to the date of passage, if it is
9 used for the purpose of calling a convention or used in
10 support of conducting a convention to amend the
11 Constitution of the United States for any purpose other
12 than the purpose set forth in subsection (a) of this
13 section.

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15 (c) That this application constitutes a continuing
16 application in accordance with Article V of the
17 Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of
18 at least two-thirds (2/3) of the several states have made
19 applications on the same subject.

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1 **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the
3 United States, to the President of the Senate and the
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United
5 States Congress, to the chairmen of the House Committee on
6 the Judiciary and the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and
7 to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

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(END)