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Media Contact:

W. Spider Webb, Jr.

850-694-2607 - cell

SpiderW@SingleSubjectAmendment.com

Florida Makes History to Add Single Subject Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Tallahassee, Fla. – In a historic step to improve the transparency of Congress, the Florida Legislature has become the first state legislature in the nation to call for an Article V convention of the states to propose a single subject requirement in the U.S. Constitution. The purpose of the amendment would be to prohibit Congress from passing laws that pertain to more than one subject, requiring Congress to play by the same rules as those mandated by 41 state constitutions.

Single Subject Amendment, a Super PAC, is spearheading this effort to add a 28th amendment to the United States Constitution to provide a simple, non-partisan solution for the way Congress does business. In the legislative session that ended May 2, both chambers of the Florida Legislature gave bipartisan approval to House Memorial 261, which was introduced, at the request of Single Subject Amendment PAC, by state Representative Halsey Beshears and makes application for an Article V Convention for the sole purpose of proposing a single subject amendment. If incorporated into the U.S. Constitution, the amendment would provide that no bill introduced in Congress shall become law if it pertains to more than one subject, which must be clearly expressed in the bill's title.

“A single subject amendment would eliminate riders and reduce pork barrel spending, the use of earmarks and logrolling,” said W. Spider Webb, Jr., CEO and Founder of Single Subject Amendment PAC. “Too often, important ‘must-pass’ legislation is overloaded with completely unrelated provisions, to reward loyalty and usually for the benefit of a few at the unnecessary expense of the rest. The most egregious use of riders occurs when sponsors of legislation collect enough votes through riders to pass legislation, no part of which could otherwise pass on its own merits. This amendment will prevent public surprise and increase the institutional accountability of Congress and its members.”

There are only two ways to propose an amendment to the U. S. Constitution: by Congress or by an Article V convention of the states convened upon the application of thirty-four state legislatures.

Although forty-one state constitutions have a single subject provision, which constitutionally prohibits unrelated provisions, called riders, in state legislation, this provision for federal legislation is missing in the U.S. Constitution. Congress has never proposed a single subject amendment to the U. S. Constitution and no state, until now, has ever sent to Congress an application for an Article V convention to propose this amendment.

Single Subject Amendment PAC hopes that a single subject amendment to the U. S. Constitution will serve as a catalyst to unite both political parties in Congress, so that together they can reach an agreement on a practical solution for breaking the gridlock in Washington, thereby improving the legislative process and the way Americans view Congress. With this amendment, Congress will be able to conduct its business in a more productive, efficient, transparent and less acrimonious way.

“As a former lobbyist, I have had many discussions over the years with members of Congress regarding a single subject requirement, but nothing has ever come of it,” said Webb. “I know from my experience with Congress that little happens unless someone makes it happen, and it is my hope that Single Subject Amendment PAC can help move this effort forward. Now that Florida has passed legislation with bipartisan support, getting thirty-three other state legislatures to pass the same legislation should go quickly.”

For more information on Single Subject Amendment PAC, the group’s mission and how to get involved, please visit www.SingleSubjectAmendment.com.

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About Single Subject Amendment PAC

Single Subject Amendment is a nonprofit 527 organization and, more specifically, a Super PAC that registered with the Federal Election Commission on March 1, 2013. Super PACs, officially known as “independent-expenditure only committees,” may not make contributions to candidate campaigns or parties, but may engage in unlimited political spending independently of the campaigns. Unlike traditional PACs, they can raise funds from individuals, corporations, unions and other groups, without any legal limit on donation size.