



Construction Industry Round Table

Legislative News

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9/09/2014 – Senate Democrats Propose Restrictions on First Amendment Rights

In a breath-taking frontal assault on the Constitution and the fundamental free speech rights protected by the First Amendment, the Democrat majority in the U.S. Senate has proposed an election-year, politically expedient change to this vital freedom. CIRT has joined hundreds of business groups led by the Chamber of Commerce to strongly oppose S.J. Res. 19 (the so-called Udall Amendment). The groups expressed their rejection of the proposal on three grounds:

- (1) the resolution goes against the First Amendment's bedrock principle that the government should not restrict expression based on its message, ideas, or content (especially "political" free speech);
- (2) the joint resolution would dramatically increase the scope of federal and state speech regulation (allowing the federal government to prohibit or otherwise limit speech related to state elections, as well as allow states to prohibit or limit speech related to federal elections); and
- (3) S.J. Res. 19 would significantly curtail the constitutionally protected right of freedom of association. Underlying this proposal is the targeting of certain political viewpoints, and groups such as businesses, in an obvious attempt to use the weight and authority of federal constitutional law to help the ultra-liberal agenda.

For details on the impact of the proposed changes to the First Amendment rights, see: [The Center for Competitive Politics' packet entitled, "The Udall Amendment: A Briefing Book"](#).