

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0003

Single subject amendment resolution.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Laursen, Blackburn, Clem and Lindholm and Senator(s) Case, Hicks and Wasserburger

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

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

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

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12 WHEREAS, a single-subject constitutional provision supports
13 this principle by prohibiting a legislative body from
14 enacting a law that embraces more than one subject; and

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

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

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13 WHEREAS, the country's national debt is greatly expanding
14 and Congress is currently searching for a solution; and

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

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1 WHEREAS, it is Wyoming's hope and desire that Congress will
2 be able to conduct its business in a more productive,
3 efficient, transparent and less acrimonious way with a
4 single-subject requirement; and

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6 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States
7 makes provision for amending the Constitution on the
8 application of the legislatures of two-thirds (2/3) of the
9 several states, or on the calling of a convention for
10 proposing amendments that shall be valid to all intents and
11 purposes if ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths
12 (3/4) of the several states or by conventions in three-
13 fourths (3/4) thereof, as the one or the other mode of
14 ratification may be proposed by Congress.

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

18

19 **Section 1.**

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21 (a) That the Legislature of the State of Wyoming does
22 hereby make application to the Congress of the United
23 States pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the

1 United States to call a convention for the sole purpose of
2 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United
3 States to provide that Congress shall pass no bill, and no
4 bill shall become law, which embraces more than one
5 subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the bill's
6 title.

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8 (b) That this resolution is revoked and withdrawn,
9 nullified and superseded to the same effect as if it had
10 never been passed, and be retroactive to the date of
11 passage, if it is used for the purpose of calling a
12 convention or used in support of conducting a convention to
13 amend the Constitution of the United States for any purpose
14 other than requiring that every law enacted by Congress
15 shall embrace only one subject, which shall be clearly
16 expressed in the title.

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18 (c) That this application constitutes a continuing
19 application in accordance with Article V of the
20 Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of
21 at least two-thirds (2/3) of the states have made
22 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 and to the Wyoming Congressional
6 Delegation.

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(END)