

**Written Testimony of John Pudner**  
Auburn, Alabama

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties

*Hearing on Citizens United at 10: The Consequences for Democracy  
& Potential Responses By Congress*  
February 6, 2020

As former political consultant and longtime conservative Republican, I ran an effort to reach 14 million Catholic and socially conservative Christians in 16 states for George W. Bush in 2000 and have advised many Republican campaigns, including former Representative Dave Brat's successful campaign that challenged former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor in Virginia. I'm now the executive director of Take Back Our Republic. I formed Take Back Our Republic as a full-time endeavor to correct the misconception that "campaign finance reform" was something only progressives should support. In our first year, for example, we successfully helped recruit 52 Republicans to join 31 Democrats to sponsor a bill to discourage foreign donations to campaigns. I also serve on the advisory council of American Promise.

Managing successful political campaigns for nearly three decades, I've seen firsthand the power big money holds over our political system. This is a growing crisis that neither major political party is solely responsible for creating, and that both major parties must act together to fix. One necessary and critical step needed now is a Constitutional amendment so that the people, through our representatives in Congress and the states, may enact reasonable limits and better address the undue influence of money in elections. This amendment is necessary to set a sound foundation for a system in which all Americans may exercise free speech and have representation in our government, while better securing the fundamental role of the states in our federalist system—as our nation's founders intended.

As this hearing concerns the 10th Anniversary of the *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision, I wanted to share with members of the Constitution Subcommittee my reasons for supporting a constitutional amendment to address the unintended consequences, and unanticipated and systemic effects, of that decision. I encourage members of Congress to work across the aisle to make this historic and fundamental reform a reality. Thank you.

Attachment: *I'm a Conservative Against Citizens United*, John Pudner, The Hill, January 20, 2020.