

Testimony of Dr. Madeleine Crozat-Williams April 9, 2015
Before the Texas House **Select Committee on State & Federal Power & Responsibility**

RE: House Concurrent Resolution 49 filed by Senfronia Thompson, Dist. 141, on Jan. 26, 2015

I am a member of the cross-partisan groups Texans United to Amend and Houston Area Move to Amend. We are working for a Constitutional amendment which states specifically that labor unions and corporations are not people and that money is not free speech. I strongly support HCR49 and urge you to pass it on to the floor of the House for a vote.

As a result of the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, large moneyed entities have gained the status of personhood and their contributions of huge amounts of money into elections is legally viewed as free speech. Most Americans have lost our rights of sovereignty granted to us by our U.S. Constitution. Large entities and corporations were never meant to have these constitutional rights.

Our founding fathers had fought a hard battle against the **wealthy** British crown and its hated corporations. Remember the Boston Tea Party, the action taken against the East India Company and their unfair tax on tea! The founders of this country decided that corporations would be strictly limited by their charters and not be given the rights of individual citizens!

Not only our nation's Bill of Rights, but also the **Texas Constitution's Bill of Rights**, limit the power of government to real persons.

Sections 2 and 3 of the Texas Bill of Rights state as follows:

Sec. 2. INHERENT POLITICAL POWER; REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT. All political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their benefit. The faith of the people of Texas stands pledged to the preservation of a republican form of government, and, subject to this limitation only, they have at all times the inalienable right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may think expedient.

Sec. 3. EQUAL RIGHTS. All free men, when they form a social compact, have equal rights, and no man, or set of men, is entitled to exclusive separate public emoluments, or privileges, but in consideration of public services.

You have all taken an oath that you "will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State."

We are very concerned that this moral responsibility of our governments is violated by protecting and empowering a very small number of 'citizens' with unfathomable sums of money and would like you to take a stand against this immoral situation that has grown through several activist rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court. The Constitutional Amendment proposed in HCR49 **supports the moral values of equal protection and the empowerment of all Americans, not just the wealthy few.** Please work with us to right an egregious error of the Supreme Court. We urge you to vote to pass HCR49 to the floor of the House for a full vote.