

**Statement for Democracy Day, 2020**

**From State Senator Theresa Fedor, cosponsor SR221:**

**Corporations are not People and Money is not free speech**

**October 21, 2020**

I want to thank you all so much for hosting this important event to raise awareness about Senate Resolution 221 and the issue of corporate personhood and the threat it poses to our democracy. For too long, money has been allowed to infiltrate our country's electoral process. Our leaders should not be chosen based on the interests of big business who have the power to talk with money; they should be chosen based on the interests of our citizens. This is why I am a co-sponsor of Senate Resolution 221, which calls on state and federal legislators to amend the United States Constitution to abolish corporate personhood.

To date, 17 states and hundreds of municipalities in the United States, including over 20 in Ohio, have already approved resolutions or voted for ballot initiatives calling for a 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to affirm that only living-breathing human beings have constitutional rights; and that money is property, not speech. In 2016, Toledo voted to pass this initiative as well. Our city's residents have made their choice resoundingly clear: it is time to get rid of corporate personhood.

Senate Resolution 221 is an important first step in returning fairness to our politics and ensuring the will of the people is not drowned out by moneyed interests. Free speech is one of the pillars upon which our democracy was founded; money should never take precedence over it. Senate Resolution 221 will restore the people's choice and ensure that every vote counts.

Thank you again for the important work that you do, and thank you for inviting me to give a statement today.