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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4001

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Hatfield, Pennington, Eickmeyer, Benson, Wood, Doumit, Simpson, DeBolt, Bush, Cooper, Linville, Morris, Reardon, Darneille, Mielke, Lovick, Kessler, Dunshee, Kirby, Hurst, Campbell, Ogden, Grant, Keiser, O'Brien, Edwards, Haigh, Kagi, Alexander and Jackley

Read first time 01/15/2001. Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Elections.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE  
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF  
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and Senate  
6 of the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States recently held  
9 in California Democratic Party et al. v. Jones, Secretary of State  
10 of California, et al. (No. 99-401), June 26, 2000, that blanket  
11 primaries to nominate candidates for partisan offices violate the  
12 First Amendment rights of association; and

13 WHEREAS, Washington State has had a long and fruitful tradition  
14 of blanket primary voting to nominate candidates for partisan  
15 offices that began with the State Legislature enacting Initiative  
16 to the Legislature No. 2 in 1935; and

17 WHEREAS, Voters of the State of Washington strongly support the  
18 continued use of the blanket primaries to nominate candidates for  
19 partisan offices, reflecting the independent nature of voters in

1 Washington State and allowing more moderate nominees to be made  
2 from the major political parties;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that  
4 Congress approve a constitutional amendment allowing states to  
5 provide for blanket primaries to nominate candidates for partisan  
6 offices.

7 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
8 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the  
9 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the  
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of  
11 Congress from the State of Washington.

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