

FILED JAN 13 2005

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

BY WARNSTADT

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution requesting the Congress of the United States
2 to submit to the states for ratification an amendment to the
3 United States Constitution providing for a nonpartisan
4 approach to congressional redistricting.

5 WHEREAS, the essence of a representative democracy is to have
6 an elected body that is truly representative of the population;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, congressional redistricting in many states has been
9 used to protect or defeat incumbents, and to enhance partisan
10 advantage; and

11 WHEREAS, congressional redistricting in some states has turned
12 the concept of representative democracy on its head by allowing
13 elected officials to select their constituents; and

14 WHEREAS, the current practice of partisan gerrymandering of
15 congressional districts leads to the establishment of very few
16 competitive congressional districts; and

17 WHEREAS, the lack of competition in congressional elections
18 limits the choices of Americans and leads to disenchantment with
19 the political process; NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SJR 1 STATE GOVERNMENT

1 That the Congress of the United States is hereby petitioned
2 to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United
3 States, for submission to the states for ratification, to
4 prevent the consideration of partisan registration, past
5 partisan performance, and incumbent residency in establishing
6 new congressional districts following each decennial census;
7 and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be
9 transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the
10 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the
11 members of Iowa's congressional delegation.

12 EXPLANATION

13 This joint resolution constitutes a petition to the
14 Congress of the United States to propose a constitutional
15 amendment to prevent the consideration of partisan
16 registration, past partisan performance, and incumbent
17 residency in establishing new congressional districts
18 following each decennial census.

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