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### PENCE AMENDMENT PROTECTING FREE SPEECH OF GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY GROUPS PASSES U.S. HOUSE

**Washington, Jul 26 - Washington, DC**—U.S. Congressman Mike Pence's amendment to protect the free speech of grassroots advocacy groups passed the House 215-205 today. The amendment was attached to the appropriations bill funding the Departments of Commerce, Justice and Science-related agencies.

**"Today freedom of speech prevailed on the floor of the People's House,"** said Pence. **"We still have much work to do to reinstate full First Amendment protections to the American people, so badly trampled by McCain-Feingold, but passing the Pence Amendment is a first step to achieving that goal."**

Background on the amendment:

The Pence Amendment prohibits funds appropriated in this bill from being used by the Department of Justice to enforce the criminal penalties provisions of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, commonly known as McCain-Feingold, against organizations that make electioneering communications.

The electioneering communications section of McCain-Feingold prohibits the use of corporate or labor union funds to finance broadcast advertisements that include the name or a depiction of a federal candidate within 30 days of a primary or 60 days of a general election. Basically, it restricts the First Amendment right of Americans to lobby their representatives in Washington by use of the airwaves.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> of this year the Supreme Court, in the case *FEC v. Wisconsin Right to Life*, ruled unconstitutional this provision in McCain-Feingold that prohibits the broadcasting of such issue advertisements prior to an election *even* if those advertisements reference a federal candidate and *even* if the advertisements have some 'electoral' effect.

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Pence discusses the '527 Fairness Act'