

Testimony

Of

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I am a U.S. Air Force Veteran, Kansas native, from Wichita, and most of my life particularly not involved in governmental politics. However now, I have been concerned where our country is heading, and election after election, I can see that nothing ever really changed, but seems to get more extreme. The Constitutional system that is supposed to be the law of the land and that I swore to support and defend was being attacked from all sides in Washington DC. As a father, I have become deeply concerned with my own children's future.

I joined the Convention of States Project because I saw an opportunity that was written into the United States Constitution that could possibly get us back to restoring our Republic as a beacon for liberty and freedom. Since I have been a Convention of States District Captain and now a Regional Captain, it has opened my eyes and provided the drive to learn more about our great country and its founders. For example, I have studied the Federalist Papers, personal letters from the Founders themselves, and many other founding documents, and it has convinced me that the only constitutional way to attempt fix the problems in D.C. is to use what our Constitution's Framers gave us.

Today, you have an opportunity to follow what they gave us that would assist in bringing much needed change to the huge federal bureaucracy that has over extended its powers. Our country's founders intended for *you*, each state, to step up and take this initiative in order to be the primary governing authority within your own state. That means, to decide here in Kansas if we are a ward of the federal government or are we to decide on what is better for our state?

At the close of the 1787 Constitutional Convention, it was Virginia delegate, George Mason, who was concerned that national government could one day become overpowering and oppressive. At the time in the Constitutional draft, amendments to the Constitution could only be proposed by Congress, and he was concerned that there could be no constraints on a runaway government that the people in the states could restrain. All delegates unanimously agreed to add the second clause of Article V that would give the states the opportunity to bypass Congress to propose amendments in a convention.

Over the years, our great constitutional system that has provided limitations along with checks and balances for all three government branches has been driven off course from years of court decisions and interpretations. The intended language of the Constitution has been interpreted and re-interpreted that has in essence assisted in diminishing the power of the individual state.

Now, you will hear the naysayers today give testimony against having a Convention of States by saying it is just too risky. They will try to convince you of many things such as a “runaway convention,” “it is just more words on paper that they do not follow now,” and “they are going to re-write the Constitution.” These naysayers might even allude to not trusting you, the state legislature, since you did not recently support our state’s “2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Protection Act” when it came time to stand up to the Federal Government over federal law.

These folks think that that the state has the right to nullify any law that the state deems unconstitutional. Well, the U.S. Constitution’s Framers had one true method to deal with disagreements between the Federal Government and the States and that is with a Convention of States per Article V within the text of the Supreme Law of the land.

The U.S. Constitution is that document that was produced by those great men for a free people that valued independence over government tyranny. These men knew that power and wealth corrupts human beings, and that a government could grow into an all-encompassing centralized entity as generations came and went.

For a second year in a row, the Washington D.C area has been deemed the wealthiest within the United States...so where does Washington receive its funding?

As an American and Kansas citizen, I am sick and tired of the Washington elite (elected and also the un-elected agencies) dictating to me what is good for my state and household. Our country was supposed to be founded as a Republic that insures individual liberty to us people in the states. Not as a collective government that decides what is best for itself.

It is time we use the tool the Founders gave us that would let us the people of the states decide. The states created the federal government and signed-on as part of the Constitutional Compact, and now is the time, to add Kansas on the list of the two thirds requirements for to have a convention of states.

I urge you to please support SCR 1611 that calls for a Convention of States to propose constitutional amendments that will limit the scope, power, and jurisdiction of the federal government.

It is time to use your constitutional authority to make this happen for our country’s longevity and our children’s future.

Best Regards,

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