

TESTIMONY  
OF  
TONY GILLETTE  
KANSAS SENATE  
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2018

My name is Tony Gillette. I am a 25-year resident of Shawnee, KS, a husband and father to two teenage sons, and a National Account Manager for an industrial plastics company.

Like many average Americans, I feel that the federal government is out of control at every level, and the strategy of just trying to elect the right people to office is not enough. Presidents are ruling by Executive Orders, out of control spending by Congress continues, while overreaching Courts and political power elites have all been stealing our personal liberties for years. All of this over-reaching by a ubiquitous federal government has left the States to become nothing more than subservient Districts to their federal masters.

That leaves us all asking the question, “What can we do about this mess in Washington DC?”

Fortunately, the US Constitution has the answer for a bloodless revolution that gives “We the People” a way to take back control of this federal monster, and for the States to bring real meaning back into the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The Founding Framers knew that the federal government might one day become drunk with power, so they gave the States a back door gift around the federal leviathan.

The solution is for the States, collectively, to use this gift the Founders gave us in Article V in the U.S. Constitution to limit federal power and jurisdiction. You, State Legislators, have the ultimate duty to defend the Constitution, and State Sovereignty; it is time to use the tools within it to save this Republic. SCR-1611 is a solution for the States to have an Amendments Proposing Meeting, A Convention of the States, to propose targeted amendments to the US Constitution within three subject matters: to limit fiscal irresponsibility, limit the power and scope of the federal government, and add term limits to federal officials. Currently twelve states have passed this call for a Meeting of the States, which takes 34 states to call a convention, and 38 states to pass every proposed amendment through the same state ratification process, just as if Congress had proposed them — which we know they will never do.

I have proudly served this effort in Kansas for three Legislative Sessions already, and I’ve meet many great patriots in this State. We, along with 3.2 million petition signers across the nation are willing and ready to embrace this Constitutional process.

Others will say that this is dangerous or that it “might” runaway and get out-of-control. I say, the time is here and now for us to boldly step forward and act using the tools the Founding Fathers gave us, and that doing nothing is even worse. This great republic was not built on fear, but on the people’s determination for self-government, personal property rights, and the rule of law, granted to us by God. The time to act is NOW! Article V is the solution as big as the problem. As two great Presidents once said: we have nothing to fear but fear itself, and after all, WE are Americans! I humbly ask for your support, thank you.

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