

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018**  
**SCR 1611, Hearing in Senate Federal and State Committee**  
**Robert Wood, The Kansas Chamber of Liberty**  
**Opposing SCR 1611 with written and oral testimony**  
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Honorable Chairman and State Senators:

I am writing today in opposition to SCR 1611, the resolution for Kansas to join with other States in an Article V Convention to amend or rewrite our Constitution.

An Article V Convention seeks to change the words of our law, our Constitution. If changing words was all that was needed to stop tyranny, then our Founders would not have written so many notes warning us that the words they left us must be defended and enforced for ourselves and for our posterity. They warned us that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" and that we must support and defend the Constitution to stop tyranny from gaining a foothold in this country once again.

If more words or laws stopped criminals, then we wouldn't need law enforcement. We the People and the States are the Constitution's law enforcement. Unfortunately forces have caused us to forget our oaths and our solemn duty to support and defend our Constitution. Words won't do that for us.

There are 3 main reasons why changing words in the Constitution will not fix what ails this country. What ails this country are ignorance, immorality and apathy. We must fix the hearts and minds of men or nothing we do will make any difference. And if we open up our Compact for revision today our ignorance and immorality will only be codified into it for eternity.

Our country has become ignorant of the Constitution. It is not taught in our public schools, our universities of higher education, nor our law schools. This was proven over the last several years in surveys showing that less than 2% of Americans know the 5 freedoms listed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment of the Constitution. Another survey showed that most Americans knew the 5 members of the Simpson's TV Show family while they knew nothing about our nation's highest law. This is NOT the time to be opening up our Constitution for amending and rewrites!

In the early days of our Constitutional Republic Americans were admired for our knowledge of the Constitution and the 700 years of liberty that led to the formation of it:

***"...every citizen is taught. ...the history of his country and the leading features of its Constitution. ...It is extremely rare to find a man imperfectly acquainted with these things and a person wholly ignorant of them is sort of a phenomenon." – Alexis de Tocqueville.***

Unfortunately he would find just the opposite today. Do you know the 5 Freedoms listed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment? Can you name the many liberty charters that led to the formation of our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution? Have you read the Treaties and works of Montesquieu, John Locke or even Blackstone and the many others that were common knowledge among our Founders? How can any of us say that we are prepared and up to the task of amending the brilliant works of our Founders when we have become so ignorant in the basics of Natural Law and what our Constitution was built upon? When 98% of us do not even know our basic freedoms listed in it?

A country who employs those to serve us in government who looks the other way as they violate the life, liberty and property of the people have become too immoral to be given the power to rewrite the Compact presented to us by our learned and virtuous Founders. Our Founders warned that morally bankrupt people will be our downfall and no more words in the Constitution will change that fact.

***“Neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt.” -Samuel Adams***

Our country has become ignorant of our Constitution, immoral in our actions and apathetic to our duty to defend the rights of our neighbour, defend our liberty and to support and defend our Constitution. Every person that serves the people of this country must take an oath to support and defend the Constitution from all threats both foreign and domestic. Today our domestic threat is an all-powerful central government that wilfully and purposely works outside of the limitations we have set for it and it is up to We the People and the States to enforce it or see this republic fall in to ruin and chaos.

***“Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature ... If the next centennial does not find us a great nation...it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces. “ - James Garfield, 1877***

Fixing, amending or rewriting new words in the Constitution is not the issue. Fixing ignorance, immorality and apathy is the issue. The people must once again see it as our duty to be vigilant in educating ourselves and our children in our founding documents and great history. That we understand that our rights come from our Creator and it is the number one duty of those we elect to defend those rights. And understand that we the people and those we elect to serve us must vigorously defend the sovereignty of our States the liberty of our people.

IT IS TIME THAT WE ENFORCE OUR LAWS AND OUR COMPACT NOT AMEND THEM!

Please vote NO on SCR 1611 and let's get busy working to defend the rights of the people of this State and stop complying with anymore violations of our Compact.

***“No compact among men . . . can be pronounced everlasting and inviolable, and if I may so express myself, that no Wall of words, that no mound of parchment can be so formed as to stand against the sweeping torrent of boundless ambition on the one side, aided by the sapping current of corrupted morals on the other.” -George Washington***