

February 14, 2018
SCR 1611, Hearing in Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
Dylan John Callahan, testifying on my own behalf
SCR 1611 Opponent, Written Testimony only
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My name is Dylan Callahan, I am 26 years old and a registered voter in the 17th Senate District of Kansas. I would like to explain why I actively oppose calling a convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

The resolution being discussed finds that the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending. This is not due to a flaw in the wording of the Constitution, nor is it due to any lack of clarity in the intentions of the Framers of the Constitution, but it is in fact due to the lack of respect for and enforcement of the words plainly written in the Constitution by requiring funds for a host of unconstitutional bureaus, agencies, policies and wars.

The resolution further finds that the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates. Again, the flaw is not in the Constitution, but in its not being upheld.

The resolution correctly determines that the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of the Constitution of the United States. Indeed, the plain meaning of the words written in the Constitution, and in the writings of its authors, clearly show that every branch of the federal government and its many agencies daily act in defiance of the Constitution.

It is the conclusion of the resolution which I find to be a *non sequitur*. Quoting the resolution, “It is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our people — particularly for the generations to come — by proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States through a convention of the states under Article V for the purpose of restraining these and related abuses of power...”

It is indeed the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our people. That is the primary function of our system of government. But proposing amendments to the Constitution is a tool only necessary when the Constitution is found to be in error. An Article V convention is a tool for altering our form of government when that form is shown to be destructive of the ends for which it was created, yet we can see from this very resolution that the destructive tendencies of our federal government at this present time come not from a flaw in our Constitution, but from a distinct lack of adherence to the Constitution.

It is absolutely necessary, as stated by proponents of the proposed convention, that the states stand in the gap and defend their citizens from abuse and the Constitution from disregard. As the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution clearly requires, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

Therefore, I urge you to vote against SCR 1611, and I respectfully demand this body acts instead to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States against those who wish to ignore, alter or abolish it; asserting Kansas' adherence to the Constitution as the Supreme Law of the Land, federal abuses and usurpations notwithstanding, holding perversions of the plain meaning of the words already written therein to be regarded as null and void.