

Date of Testimony: February 11, 2018

Bill Number: Bill SCR1611

Testimony by: Stephanie Iser

In Opposition

Testimony: Written Only

Dear Chairman Bud Estes and the members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

I am writing to voice my opposition SCR1611: Making application to the U.S. congress to call a convention of the states.

We have not had a constitutional convention before. Therefore, the rules that govern one are unclear because they have not been exercised before. Once the convention is going, other amendments could be brought up that were not originally intended. This risks the civil liberties and freedoms of all Americans. Due to the unchecked power that could be exercised in such a convention, it would be gross negligence to support a convention that puts Americans at risk.

In addition to this, due to the recent allegations against many elected officials in reports to sexual harassment and violence against women, I do not trust elected officials to be in the right state of mind to make decisions on behalf of the women and children in our country with absolute power. Therefore, I do not think its wise to put our trust in a Constitutional convention due to the state of morality amongst our leaders. There is too much evidence of sexism and racism in our country that would impact the judgement of our leaders who would be voting in the Constitutional convention. We cannot in good faith give absolute power over the constitution to people who are impacted by racist and sexist beliefs and practices, and expect to come out with results that are ethical and fair to minorities, women, and children. While the current federal governmental system may not be perfect, it at least has a checks and balances of power that helps deal with some of these issues of racism and sexism.

I ask that you oppose SCR1611. The way we amend the US Constitution has worked well for over 200 years and we should keep amending it in the same way.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stephanie Iser

Stephanie.iser@gmail.com

816-301-8358