

February 14, 2018
SCR 1611, Hearing in Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
Joshua Shorter, testifying on own behalf
Opposing SCR 1611 with written testimony only
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Honorable Chairman, Senators,

I am writing today to request you vote against SCR 1611 calling for a Constitutional or Article V Convention.

There are many problems facing Washington, D.C. today. An out of control budget and debt, federal overreach that is crippling our American dream, lifelong bureaucrats making rules for people they don't even understand anymore. Our recent budget "negotiations" have been a great example of the myriad problems facing our federal government. It seems it is time for a change.

A Constitutional Convention is not that change. There are many reasons a convention is a bad idea but I would like to focus on 2 of the main reasons this type of convention is a bad idea.

- 1) There is no way to control what is brought up on the floor for discussion. Once an item is brought up and confirmed by a simple majority of delegates, that item must be considered by the whole delegation. Most delegates would be from states more liberal than Kansas. There is no guarantee that the only topics discussed would be the debt and term limits. What happens if a proposal is brought up to remove the second amendment? The fourth? The first? If a simple majority agree, it is brought up for the whole floor. This is obviously incredibly dangerous.
- 2) The most obvious flaw is that our government doesn't follow the Constitution as written anyway. What makes us think they will follow the amended Constitution that comes out of the convention any more than they follow the Constitution to which they've sworn an oath already? The federal government does most of its work outside the limits placed on it by the Constitution now and a more restrictive Constitution will not result in a federal government in better control. You can currently take any clause of the constitution or any amendment which limits federal power and you can find obvious ways in which those are discarded and our rights are trampled.

There are better ways to get our federal government under control. The people and the states have better options than a Constitutional Convention.

Therefore, I urge you to vote against SCR 1611.