

## **Proponent Testimony of David Schneider**

### **In Support of HB2065**

#### **Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee**

**January 2025**

Chairman, Vice Chairman, and members of the committee,

My name is David Schneider, and I am here today to voice my strong support for HB2065, which provides a clear framework for the appointment, duties, and responsibilities of Kansas commissioners participating in an Article V convention. This legislation ensures that Kansas is well-prepared should such a convention be called and upholds the constitutional principles our Founders envisioned when they included Article V in the U.S. Constitution.

For nearly 12 years, I have been dedicated to advancing the Convention of States initiative. As the first State Director for Convention of States in Kansas and later as a Regional Director for the organization, I have traveled the country advocating for the use of Article V as a constitutional tool to bring the federal government back in balance with the original intent of the Constitution. Through these experiences, I have seen the necessity of having a well-structured state participation procedure in place when such a convention is inevitably called.

HB2065 is a necessary safeguard against any perceived overreach at an Article V convention. It ensures that Kansas commissioners (delegates) strictly adhere to the scope and subject matter authorized by the state legislature, preventing any deviation from the original intent of the convention call. The bill also establishes a system for appointing, instructing, and, if necessary, recalling delegates who do not comply with their mandate. This structure maintains the integrity of the process and reassures the people of Kansas that their interests will be faithfully represented.

Furthermore, HB2065 provides crucial mechanisms for transparency and oversight. The requirement for daily reports to the legislature, the presence of legal counsel, and the established communication channels between the delegation and legislative leadership ensure that the convention process remains under state control. These provisions reflect a prudent approach to exercising the state's constitutional right under Article V while maintaining necessary checks and balances.

One of the most important aspects of this legislation is its deterrent against unauthorized amendments. By classifying a violation of a delegate's duty as a severity level 6, nonperson felony, HB2065 sends a strong message that Kansas will not tolerate any actions that exceed the scope of the Article V application. This penalty provision is essential to ensuring that the process remains within constitutional bounds and adheres to the will of the Kansas Legislature.

Passing HB2065 is a proactive step in preserving Kansas' sovereignty in the Article V process. It guarantees that our state will have a well-prepared delegation should an Article V convention

be called and ensures that the process remains transparent, accountable, and faithful to its intended purpose.

I respectfully urge this committee to pass HB2065 and solidify Kansas' role as a leader in responsible, constitutionally sound governance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.