

TESTIMONY
OF
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KANSAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING
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My name is Tony Gillette. I am a 20 plus year resident of Shawnee, KS, a husband and father to two teenage sons, and a National Account Manager for an industrial packaging company.

Like many average Americans, I feel that the federal government is out of control at every level, and the strategy of just trying to elect the right people to office is not enough. Presidents are ruling by Executive Orders, out of control spending by Congress continues, while overreaching Courts and political power elites have all been stealing our personal liberties for years. All of this over-reaching by a ubiquitous federal government has left the States to become nothing more than subservient Districts to their federal masters.

That leaves us all asking the question, “What can we do about this mess in Washington DC?” and Who Decides?

Fortunately, the US Constitution has the answer, for a bloodless revolution, that gives “We the People” a way to take back control of this federal monster, and for the States to bring real meaning back into the 10th Amendment. The Founding Framers knew that the federal government might one day become drunk with power, so they gave the States a back door “gift” around the federal leviathan.

The solution is for the States, collectively, to use this gift the Founders gave us in Article V in the U.S. Constitution to limit federal power and jurisdiction. You, State Legislators, have the ultimate duty to defend the Constitution, and State Sovereignty; it is time to use the tools within it to save this Republic. HCR-5009 is a solution for the States to have an

Amendments Proposing Meeting, A Convention of the States, to propose targeted amendments to the US Constitution within three subject matters: to limit fiscal irresponsibility, limit the power and scope of the federal government, and add term limits to federal officials.

Currently now thirteen (13) States, as Arkansas passed just this February, have passed this call for a Meeting of the States, which takes 34 States to call a convention, and 38 States to pass each and every proposed amendment through the same state ratification process, just as if Congress had proposed them — which we know, they will never do.

I have proudly supported this effort in Kansas for four Legislative Sessions already, and I have met many great patriots in this State. We, along with 3.6 million supporters across the nation are willing and ready to embrace this Constitutional process.

Others will say that this is dangerous or that it “might” runaway and get out-of-control. I present two example of why this is nothing more than fear mongering.

First, there is no historical evidence that any multi-colonial or state convention ever ran away or produced a result beyond the intention of the authorities calling the meeting, whether prior to or during the revolution, post-revolution, throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The most common claim is that Philadelphia Convention of 1787 exceeded its authority. The fact is that the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 was authorized by the States, and not the Congress. It was not convened under the authority of the Articles of Confederation. The convention was not restricted to proposing amendments to the Articles but to recommend any and all expedient changes to the federal government. The Philadelphia Convention of 1787 was a multi-state

convention for proposing broad changes to the structure and operation of our federal government. The resulting Constitution was nothing but a proposal until it was ratified by nine of the twelve states in accordance with Article VII.

Second, Congress required ratification of the 21st Amendment, repealing Prohibition, by state conventions and alarmists predicted that state conventions would fail or run out of control. This did not occur. States adopted protocols for the election and convening of delegates and ratification by convention was completed successfully in less than ten months.

I say, the time is here and now for us to boldly step forward and “act” using the tools the Founding Fathers gave us to correct the current situation given to us by decades of neglect. Doing nothing now is even worse.

This great republic was not built on fear, but on the people’s determination for self-government, personal property rights, and the rule of law, granted to us by God. The time to act is NOW! Article V is the solution as big as the problem. As two great Presidents once said: we have nothing to fear but fear itself, and after all, WE are Americans! I humbly ask for your support, thank you.

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