

**Written Testimony Submitted to the Kansas Senate
Committee on Federal and State Affairs
SCR 1603 Application for a Convention of States**

**Proponent testimony in favor of this resolution
March 12, 2015**

Chairman Ostmeyer and Committee Members,

I come today in support of this legislation that ultimately will set in motion the mechanism our Founding Fathers put into the United States Constitution for when such time would arise that the Federal Government they had just created would someday grow to become tyrannical. Looking for an outlet to express my frustrations due to lack of federal representation, it is you my fellow Kansans, that George Mason put his faith into long before Kansas was formed. He rose late in the process of writing the new federal constitution at the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 and proclaimed "if the Government should become oppressive", as he verily believed would be the case, "no amendments of the proper kind would ever be obtained by the people."

As the Kansas State Director for the Convention of States Project, I educate, recruit volunteers, and manage the direction we head toward the passage of this legislation in Kansas. I grew up in Arkansas City, went to Fort Hays State University, and currently live in Marion. I work full time at a bank, have five children between the ages of 6 and 16, and my wife Leslie owns her own business. Needless to say we are busy. After passage, my job with this project is not done. I must continue educating and recruiting volunteers to ensure our state ratifies amendments that properly limit Washington's tyranny.

My children are my motivation to be involved with. It is for them I sacrifice my time and my talent to this cause, for I know if we are unsuccessful they are the ones that will live in country in decline. Precious time is being dedicated by many just like me in Kansas and around the country to make this a success. With 400 plus registered volunteers in Kansas, we have gathered thousands of petition signatures in a relatively short period of time. Many volunteers are before you in the Committee today, while many more are hard at work and could not attend. I myself took a day off from my job to be here today to discuss this most worthy cause.

My travels around Kansas have brought me in contact with many individuals that are fed up with the out of control federal government. There are some very clear themes that have come to light:

- 1) No matter whom we elect, it does not seem to get any better
- 2) We are running out of options
- 3) The Constitution is being shredded through executive actions an activist judicial system
 - a. EPA, IRS, NSA, etc. are able to make regulations with the same authority of laws
 - b. The President of the United States executive orders with the same authority of legislation

- c. The courts redefining the roles of the federal government, and granting powers not ceded to it by the Constitution
- 4) We must do something

My two greatest fears are that: (A) we do nothing (B) we head down the path that many of the opposition to this movement currently prescribe to. Just last week a group whose Legal Council is based in Olathe proclaimed that “Secession is our only recourse” and “Secession makes more sense than Article V Convention of States”. This process was put into the Constitution by men that had just fought a bloody revolution against a tyrannical King. We must ask ourselves why these individuals whom proclaim they are Constitution loving Americans prescribe a process that is outside of the Constitution. The Article V process we are here to discuss today is written in the Constitution. George Mason and the rest of our Founding Fathers left us a roadmap, we must utilize it.

I do not fear the Constitution. Others today might invoke fears of an out of control Constitutional Convention and speak of a Con-Con. They honestly fear you, not the Convention. They know that it is you the State Legislators that will ultimately choose the delegates to go a Convention of States, and they do not trust you. They don’t trust anyone or any government process including one written into the Constitution for times such as now. My hope rests with my state legislature knowing the power the Founding Fathers left to you. It is with that hope I am here today to answer questions from you and to urge passage of SCR 1603 to add Kansas to a growing list of states calling for a Convention of States placing fiscal restraints, and limit the size, scope, and jurisdiction of the federal government.

In support of this resolution,

David P. Schneider – Marion, Kansas