



**Testimony in Support of SCR1603
Before Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee**

**Mr. Daniel Murray, Kansas State Director
National Federation of Independent Business**

Thursday, March 12, 2015

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SCR1603. The NFIB/Kansas is the state's leading small business advocacy organization representing small and independent businesses. A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its over 4,200 members statewide.

I am pleased to be here in strong support of SCR1603, which resolves that the Kansas Legislature applies to Congress, under provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, for a convention of the states for the consideration of amendments to the U.S. Constitution related to curbing the power and jurisdiction of the federal government.

NFIB, in concert with the Balanced Budget Amendment Task Force, a nonprofit, non-partisan coalition of activists and state lawmakers, is spearheading a nationwide campaign to persuade at least 34 state legislatures to pass resolutions calling for a constitutional convention on the balanced budget issue. If Congress receives 34 resolutions, it must hold the convention, where state delegates would vote on the proposed amendment, which includes an exemption for balancing the budget during national emergencies. Once state delegates approve the amendment, at least 38 states would have to ratify the change. To date, 26 states have passed resolutions. We hope Kansas will be one of the last 8 states to join the cause to save our future.

Small business owners are fed up with the federal government's failure to address the basic budgeting that every citizen and small business must adhere to in their daily activities. It is time for the states and citizens to use the powers provided by the Founding Fathers in our Constitution to put an end to this irresponsible behavior. We've consistently urged Congress to balance the federal budget, but the chance of that happening appears to be extremely remote. The states created the federal government, and the framers of our Constitution envisioned a time like this when only the states are capable of acting.

Small-business owners have to balance two budgets every day, their business's and their family's, and they don't get the luxury of printing more money when costs exceed income or to saddle future generations with deficits. Further, the states manage to find a way to live within their means. A convention of states might be just what it takes to make Congress serious about controlling spending.

The federal balanced budget amendment is something our members believe in with their heart and soul ... that the federal government shouldn't spend more than it takes in and leave the burden for future generations. NFIB is confident that we can get there or at least create enough momentum to push Congress to take action.

Again, we urge your support of SCR1603.