



Individual Liberty
Economic Liberty
Strengthen Families
Sovereign States Rights
Ending Judicial Activism

March 12, 2015

SCR 1603 Article V Convention
Proponent testimony in favor of this bill

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members;

My name is Keen Umbehr. I was the Libertarian Candidate for Governor in the recent 2014 election. I am also an attorney, a government watch-dog, public advocate and I have a degree in political science from Kansas State University.

The discussion on the favorable passage of HCR 5010, Article V. Convention, should begin with answering this primary question:

Do you believe that the power of the federal government is limited?

If your answer to this question is **no**, then nothing which I, nor ten angles, propounding the position that the power of the federal government is indeed limited would change your mind. Persons of this mindset are irreversibly convinced that the States cannot place any limits upon on the expansion of the Federal Government.

On the other hand, if you adhere to the principle that the Federal Constitution does indeed place limits on the expansion of federal powers over the States, then you should consider the following four questions:

1. Is the federal government responsible for leading our country into a spending and debt crisis?
2. Does the federal government continue to impose regulatory burdens upon the States which are inconceivably complex, conflicted and crushing?
3. Is State sovereignty being eroded by the expansion of the federal government?

4. Is there any legitimate checks and balances that can constitutionally be imposed upon the Federal government by the States?

If your answers to these questions is “**YES**”, then you are faced with the option of: (A) Do nothing or (B) Follow Article V. of the Constitution. The Federal government – via the executive branch, congress and the judiciary – will not restrain, check or place any voluntary limits on Federal power exerted over the States. – no matter who or what party is elected and/or in power.

The founding fathers anticipated that at some point in time, the federal government might become intoxicated with political power exercised over the States. Therefore, Article V. was adopted into our constitution which granted the State’s constitutional authority to hold a convention for the purposes of proposing amendments to the Constitution. By voting favorably for this resolution, Kansas can join other States in an effort to stop the runaway Federal spending and the massive accumulation of debt, power grabs by the federal courts and other misuses of federal power.

This committee is at a crossroads. A vote against HCR 5010 ensures that the “escalating power of a centralized - out of control federal government – will continue unabated ultimately resulting in the financial ruin of generations of Americans.” A vote in favor of HCR 5010 is the only “. . . path leads to the restoration of liberty . . .” “At the end of the day we must trust either Congress or the states. Recent history makes that an easy choice. Washington, D.C., is clearly the greatest danger to our liberty.”

Please cast your vote for liberty. Please vote in favor of HCR 5010 and allow the full House debate this resolution.

Respectfully Submitted,
Keen Umbehr
P.O. Box 482
Alma, Kansas 66401
(785) 230-8093
Email: keen@keenjustice.com
Proponent of HCR 5010

Source: Convention of States Action Handbook; A Handbook for Legislators and Citizens, Third Edition; Website: COSAction.com; Phone (540) 441-7227