

SCR 1603

Blake Branson - Opponent

To the Honorable Chairman and Representatives of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today.

I have a number of important reasons for opposing a Convention of the States, but today I am going to focus mostly on one of those reasons.

Here it is:

Kansas has one of the best state legislatures in the nation.

This is an extremely important point. What this means is that nearly every other delegation at a proposed convention would be less conservative, less liberty minded, and less principled than ours.

Supporting an Article V convention means trusting dozens of state legislatures, many of which are awful, with our most important governing document.

Even in Kansas, with one of the best legislatures in the nations, prior to this session, Constitutional Carry or Permitless Carry - people being allowed to exercise their God-given rights - has not even been proposed or considered. And we're going to trust our Constitution to the numerous states that allow for many more gun restrictions than we do?

This does not sound like a winning proposition.

Proponents will argue that any amendments will have to be ratified by the states and that this is a strong enough buffer to protect our Constitution.

Let us ignore for a moment the fact that delegates to a Convention have the full authority, with enough votes, to change or ignore the rules of a convention or perhaps even change the number of states needed to ratify amendments.

A number of the most conservative and liberty minded states can still be left entirely out of the equation and ratify an amendment that is weakens the Constitution. Kansas would be one of those states.

It is also worth noting that the amendments proposed that would most destroy the foundation of our Constitution will not be the scariest looking ones. They likely will not be the amendments that are obviously trying to upend the Constitution or remove one of the Bill of Rights. It will be the one that looks like a beautiful compromise.

It will be an amendment that the worst states can agree on while leaving Kansas out of the equation.

How many states would vote to include federal government control over education in the Constitution?

How many states restrict gun rights, even a little bit, that would allow for the Constitution to reflect those restrictions?

Pick an issue where you trust the least liberty conscious states in our country to change the Constitution and tell me you still want to call an Article V convention.

I would encourage you to think long and hard before trusting our Constitution to such dangerous conditions and I would encourage you to look towards the 10th Amendment for solutions to federal overreach.

Thank you for your consideration and I strongly urge you to reject any proposal calling for an Article V Convention.

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