

Bob Strawder
Lebo, Kansas
In favor of SCR 1607
March 13, 2023

To the Honorable Chairman and Members of the Kansas Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

One day about ten years ago, a few of us guys happened to get together, and the conversation got around to complaining about the way things were being handled in Washington DC. After a while, Eric (known now as Kansas Representative Eric Smith) told us we needed to have an Article V convention of the states. I didn't know what he was talking about at the time, and didn't say anything. I filed it away in my head as something I should probably look into.

At that time, I was still trying to drive a truck. While at a fuel stop, I would hear others complaining about the government, and it seemed someone would always say something like, "how long are we going to put up with this before we have another civil war?" This bothered me a lot.

We already have a civil war in our history, and we were blessed to come out of it and remain a nation. Besides, the kind of civil war being mentioned is really a revolution, and the only time in recorded history a war of that type reduced the size and power of the government was our American Revolution. By the way, we didn't just fight the British in the American Revolution; we fought each other too. A war is not the answer.

Another day, I came home, and Kim (my wife) was upset about things she had heard on the news. Without going into details, it was more of the same kind of government overreach that started the conversations mentioned earlier. After we discussed it a while, she said, "all I ever hear is a lot of talk, nobody ever does anything." I realized it was time for me to get more involved.

Remembering what my friend Eric had said that day, I Googled Article V convention, and found the Convention of States Project. I saw who was involved, what they were trying to do, and wondered: Why haven't we already done this? I became a volunteer for the Convention of States almost nine years ago.

As a volunteer for the Convention of States Project, I have found almost everyone believes the federal government is out of control. In fact, it is only the rare exception that someone tells me they think things are going fine just the way they are.

Our United States Constitution was written to restrict the federal government to a few responsibilities required of it by the States and the People, while ensuring the power of the States and the People. The second part of Article V (the State's part) is the ultimate constitutional check on the balance of power. That makes the State Legislatures the most powerful office of these United States.

We have all heard the fear expressed by those who oppose using our Constitution to correct problems in our federal government. Please, keep in mind, these are the same people telling you the answer is to enforce what we have, and to nullify anything that isn't part of our founding document. I believe there is a place for enforcement and nullification, but it is not the cure for all. They want you to believe the Constitution could be thrown out and rewritten, or the process would be taken over by a bunch of rogues with no honor. Of course, they say this unconstitutional action could happen, because the

Framers of our Constitution acted illegally; inferring they were rogues with no honor. Article V is, in fact, part of our United States Constitution.

Article V of the United States Constitution (the States part has been highlighted):

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, ***on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which***, in either case, ***shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress***; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

Those who drafted Article V didn't go into laying out the rules for a convention, because it was understood how conventions operated, and history shows us. The resolution you are being asked to pass for this historic meeting of the States limits the topics to be discussed, and all of the State's applications must say basically the same thing to be considered.

The Convention of States Project's mission is: ***Build a Strong, Engaged Army of Self-Governing Activists.*** We believe the grassroots is the key in providing the support needed for the States to restore and maintain the constitutional balance the Founders intended. There are over 2,450,000 petition signers nationwide, with more than 41,000 in Kansas alone, and more are signing on every day. There are petition signers in every legislative district in the United States.

This is the ninth year I have been coming here to the Kansas Statehouse, representing a cause I believe will go a long way toward securing our Republic for our descendants. I have met and gotten to know several of you, and respect the work you do. With a few possible exceptions, we all can agree something needs to be done about the rampant federal government overreach. It is up to us to do something about it.

I will continue to do what I can, and I ask you to pass this resolution on to the floor, with your blessing, so Kansas might join the other nineteen States that have applied for this historic meeting of the States.

In Liberty,
Bob Strawder
Grassroots Coordinator
Kansas Convention of States