

Date: 3/13/2023

Bill number: SCR1607

Proponent for passage

Name of conferee: Kenneth F. Kern

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Why am I addressing the support and passing of Senate Bill SCR1607?

In August 2022, it was finally revealed to me that the Convention of States (COS) IS the tool provided to us more than 200 years ago to cut into the burgeoning government. It was also the means by which I could become involved in bringing change to this corrupt government.

Nearing retirement age and remembering back through my life, I have watched the government as a whole grow and become an oppressor to the people it is to govern. When I say government, I am speaking of two parts. The elected part and the non-elected employed part. Federal and state employees of which I was also a part of at one time.

Over the years the U.S. house and senate have abdicated their responsibilities, creating agencies, funding them and not holding them accountable to ridiculous rules and orders that should have never been created. In those rules and orders are built mechanisms that threaten the individual law abiding citizen by the use of fines or jail time to comply. Does eminent domain come to mind? How about the Obama Care penalties? (Or were they taxes)? What about Medicaid requirements for the elderly to spend all of their savings to nothing before they get long term care support? Another example of financial abuse of the taxes provided by the U.S. citizens also includes over paid GS civilian positions and congressional retirement benefits that are not available outside of the government walls.

The only way out for the citizen abused by a non-elected government agency is to either appeal or sue the agency which costs time and money, something most cannot afford to do. Even the steps to appeal created by the offending office, normally favors the office and not the individual.

Over the years I've told myself, that in order to get things changed in the government you have to have a tool or apparatus bigger and more powerful than the government itself. Who or what is bigger than what we have before us other than Jesus Christ Himself? Nothing; nothing at all. Any corrupt government or agency cannot and will never fix itself. There must be a more powerful, pure, and penetrating entity to make the change.

At about the age of 28, my life had become overwhelmingly chaotic, unbearable and out of control. I was failing at everything I did and couldn't sustain anything that I was doing. I almost lost my mind to the stress of those years. I wanted out of my job, my marriage, my very life. But I didn't have the strength to even end my life myself.

On a single night in 1987, alone, in dark dorm room, after pleading to God for help, being at a loss to find an answer myself, He intervened and saved me. While the next day I still had no answers for all that I was encountering, little by little, day after day, while continuing to seek God and all the right answers He had (otherwise known as His righteousness) I began to see that He was providing what I needed. Not what I wanted.

My marriage still ended in divorce, my military life ended in shambles and I was unable to find

that “skill set” that everyone is supposed to have been born with to keep meaningful employment. However, the presence of one steady person in my life, that of the person of Jesus Christ, has been the change to me sending in this plea for support of the Article V convention. It has been Him, my being born again, and the knowledge from His written scripture that provided me with leverage! It is Leverage to remain in this world without losing my mind.

What does this have to do with the Convention of States and the legislation we are asking you to pass this year? In the same way, Article V provides instruction and structure that gave us, the average U.S. citizen, leverage to live and thrive against the destructive forces of the government.

The government has lost its way like every person born in to this world. Me and you. Every one of us is in a losing battle against sin on the day we are born. Jesus provides the leverage to live if we believe on Him as Truth. Article V provides the leverage to fix the broken parts of our government structure if we believe in it as it is written.

I had heard of COS a time or two throughout 2021 and 2022, but didn't really understand it. Then by happenstance, I took the Baldwin City High school band to the Kansas state fair for just a few hours in 2022. I came across the COS booth and began asking questions of the gentlemen there. It was then, like that night of salvation, I saw the essence of the second half of the first sentence in Article V of the Constitution.

The word “or” is two letters but a huge word in the context of Article V.

“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.....”

That statement is the leverage for every active U.S. citizen to engage the government in a meaningful and equal effort to propose change. It is not a bloated suggestive statement but a actual tool with structure and authority for those like myself who were wondering what we could do to push back on a corrupt enemy.

As the COS literature states, this is the only solution that is as big as the problems just as Jesus is the only solution with the power to make the payment for sin that got us to this point.

For just over 35 years, I painfully watched our governments, state and national, year after year, president after president, continue the progressive waltz to our decimation. I slowly closed myself off to the world because there didn't seem to be any way to change things. My life was given to waiting until Jesus returned to take care of the mess but becoming a better man in the process of the demise of my country.

As I've grown to know about our founding documents that the founders, most being believers in Christ themselves, intentionally wrote our Creator into our founding documents, using wisdom that only comes from Someone who knows all righteous law. It is written into our constitution to be used.

Through the years I had decided to dismiss any movement, club, organization, and political television and radio talking head because there has never been a practical means to make an effective change. When I saw the comparison of how God has given us His word in written form that we could depend on and our country's founding fathers written assurance of a process in Article V to petition for a change to our problems, I got excited. I just couldn't believe what I was reading and it had been there for well over 200 years!

So now as an active citizen watching my own state legislature work, and knowing that I can have a hand in petitioning my government to amend the constitution, I am resolved to ensure my decedents that I did what I knew how to do to enact change.

In closing, I highly encourage you to vote to pass this legislation to apply for an Article V convention. If you vote for this application of this Article V convention, I know that by the oath I have taken in service to my country that you are a friend and an active citizen.

Under what circumstances can even one logically minded citizen even define why a convention cannot be convened for re-limiting the power of an abusive and every increasing menace of chaos? How else can "domestic enemy" be defined, except someone living in our country that won't give the average and fellow citizen a full say in addressing their grievances as the constitution allows?

The Article V Convention is a full and equal say for the average citizen, no matter it's outcome.

This is why I am a volunteer supporter of the Convention of States Action (COSA) effort and a citizen willing to do what is necessary to encourage you, our representatives to pass this Application for the Article V convention and make Kansas the twentieth state to do so. So which will it be?

Will you provide to your constituents and every other Kansas resident or will you deny to your constituents and every other Kansas resident, an equal and full say in the ability to request amendments to our constitution?

Your time and willingness to listen to this testimony and plea is appreciated and I am grateful for your attention.

Kenneth F. Kern