



KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
TESTIMONY TO THE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
ON HCR 5010

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

In 2013, the Kansas Association of Counties adopted the following position on its Legislative Policy Statement:

Balanced Budget. We support the Kansas state legislature and the Kansas Governor in pushing for a Balanced Budget Amendment to the United States Constitution, in the absence of a statutorily-defined “national emergency,” through State Resolution #1663 enacted in 1978 or another similar state resolution.

While HCR 5010 does not speak to a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, it does speak to “fiscal restraint” for the United States government.

Kansas counties and the State must balance their budgets. We believe the federal government should do the same. The federal debt currently stands at over \$18 trillion. The portion of the national debt on which we pay interest has doubled in four years. Payment on the debt is the third highest budget item after defense and programs for the elderly. We believe the national debt creates financial insecurity for our nation as well as leading to higher interest rates and higher taxes, and does not serve the interest of Kansas citizens.

KAC supports a constitutional convention for the purpose of discussing a balanced budget amendment, and short of that, we support a constitutional convention to discuss fiscal restraint by the federal government.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HCR 5010.

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