

Testimony opposing SCR 1603 and HCR 5010

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By Barbara Paulus, Bonner Springs, KS

The testimony I am about to give, represents my own opinions and conclusions about the holding of a Constitutional Convention a proposed by Bills SCR 1603 and HCR 5010. I am not speaking on behalf of any club or group.

Regarding the holding of a Constitutional Convention of the States:

Some Constitutional scholars say a constitutional convention can be limited, others say it cannot. I am hesitant to support a convention that could end up being a free for all, where the groups with the most money win, and the citizens lose. That's what we have now, and it could always get worse.

At the 2012 Republican National Convention where I was an elected delegate, I was told point blank (when I opposed a huge power grab by the RNC) by an RNC member:

"The last thing we want is for the delegates to vote on anything. They don't know anything and just make a mess. "

The RNC did not want to hear from anyone other than their own clique. The result? Convention delegates lost our voice and our votes on future changes to RNC rules. In essence we lost everything. In my opinion, there is no need for future conventions, except as a "show" to pretend that they matter.

Our Federal government is generally corrupt and run by lobbyists. Our national Republican Party is arrogant, drunk with power and dependent on huge financial donors. Some in our state government are just as arrogant and surprising for a smallish state-are guided by lobbyists, not the State Constitution or the will of the citizens.

While our State legislators during campaign season speak badly about the federal government, they continue to seek and accept federal monies for

our state, and tacitly approve of federal controls over our lives. Kansas gets federal money for Education, Health and Human Services, disaster aid (FEMA), law enforcement, roads, airports, universities, the judiciary, administration and on and on and on. I once heard a public official brag that he got our snow removal paid for by the federal government. So, we don't even control our own snow removal. That is nothing to brag about.

The proposed 2016 ks budget has over \$3.2 billion revenues from the federal government. That is \$3.2 billions worth of control the state voluntarily will cede to the Feds.

See pg 281

http://budget.ks.gov/publications/FY2016/FY2016_GBR_Vol1--01-16-2015.pdf

If our State Legislators do not reject Federal money and the corresponding control now, I can't imagine that anything would be different in the future, including during a Constitutional Convention.

State Legislators are humans, just like Federal Legislators. All are subject to conflicting interests and tempted by the power and money that surrounds them. Most are overly concerned with getting re-elected. (A reason to implement term limits-but that is another topic).

While the intentions of Kansas legislators may be good, we all know the old saying about the path to Hell being paved with good intentions. On the other hand, the intentions of some Kansas Legislators may not be so good-and that leads to the same place.

Remember in 2012 when Republicans thought surely the country would not re-elect OBAMA? The country is not level headed by Kansas standards, it does not much know or care about the Constitution, and/or the voting process is corrupted. The RNC convention voting process is absolutely corrupted, and I personally know they don't care what elected delegates have to say. Why would this proposed convention be any different, when this attitude of disregard and disrespect for citizen participation appears to be widespread among our elected officials and party structure.

I have been told by a Kansas Legislator that "some people"-meaning me-don't know what we are talking about. There they go with that arrogance thing again! There are lots of things I don't know. But I can read, and I can see how our Legislators vote when those votes are recorded. I encourage Legislators to share with their constituents and with all Kansans-what they know in order to counter balance this negative attitude toward citizen involvement in our government.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding limitations of a Constitutional Convention, and based on my personal experience with powerful organizations that are supposed to reflect the will of the people but do not-I oppose the passage of SCR 1603 and HCR 5010.

Our Constitution covers a lot of ground-and most Federal problems are due to non-enforcement of the Constitution by all three branches of government. The U.S. Constitution does not need changing, our elected officials need to enforce it.

I encourage other citizens to think about these bills, and weigh in. Now is the time.

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara Paulus