

Opponent Written Testimony on HCR 5005

House Federal and State Affairs Committee Meeting, Monday, February 13, 2017

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I strongly oppose Kansas' assent to an Article V Convention, as the risks far outweigh any possible benefits of pursuing such a convention.

Rather than holding representatives accountable for ignoring the U.S. Constitution, calling for a convention suggests the illegal, unethical, or imprudent actions of the federal government are due to supposed "shortcomings" in the Constitution.

Rather than enforcing the Constitution and pursuant laws, calling for a convention suggests it is wiser to invent more laws for unruly executives to ignore, Congressmen to circumvent, and judges to reinterpret to fit their agendas.

Rather than directing our energies at enforcing the Constitution as written in plain words, a convention declares our Constitution has somehow become unreadable, blaming usurpation at every level on the Constitution's supposed lack of clarity.

This convention will be attended by delegates from states which have shown themselves to be hostile to civil liberties, hostile to the original intent of the Constitution, and those who have shown themselves to be adept at shrewd language which has reduced our states to colonies of the federal government, and our citizens have been made subject to unreasonable usurpation of powers by design.

Indeed, this proposed convention will have no guarantees. No guarantees that only the publicly discussed amendments will be made; no guarantees that the rules will not be changed once the convention is called to order; no guarantees these amendments will be ratified, even if beneficial in some way.

The proposed convention, by any estimate, will take years to come to fruition - years of political energy which could have been otherwise spent by our state and our citizens in asserting our sovereign will as lawfully guaranteed under the 10th Amendment.

If our 9th and 10th Amendments do not give us ample strength by law to restrain our federal government, nor indeed the Constitution itself as originally written, then what will be accomplished by adding more and more amendments?

I respectfully demand Kansas uses her sovereignty under the Constitution to promote enforcement of the law as it is written, and not to take this unnecessary, unduly arduous, and dangerous route.