

Testimony of Shelby J. Shultz
In Favor of HCR5009
Federal and State Affairs Committee Hearing
March 13, 2019

To the Honorable Chairman and Members of the Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee

I am the daughter of an American veteran. I am the wife of another American veteran and mother of six, two of whom are American soldiers. I also have a full-time job where I spend six days a week as an Information Security Analyst. My time is very precious to me. Today, I am taking time away from both of these wonderful areas in my life to bring you a message.

I am the voice of an American citizen and taxpayer. I am the voice of a college student, the voice of a waitress, a teacher, a retired mechanic, a health care provider and I am the voice of a farmer. I am the voice of the hundreds of Kansas residents that I have spoken with over the past year who do not have the luxury of being present today but have trusted me, among others, to deliver it carefully at your feet.

This great message I deliver comes from the hearts of your respective constituents in every district within the state of Kansas and it's a very simple one: we can all agree that Washington D.C. will never put limitations on themselves. My voice and message join loudly and clearly with the voices outside of this building and in the Rotunda today, as we rally for a Convention of States.

People are fed up with Washington D.C.'s overreach. They see how the government has crept into every area of our lives. They are angry, frustrated, and by God, are willing to fight to keep our Republic. Being at the mercy of distant and disconnected rulers, was why the American Revolution was fought in the first place. But we don't need another Revolution: we have Article V. We may end up with one, however, if the cries of the hardworking citizens remain unanswered much longer. While speaking with these strong and amazing people across Kansas, the only time I saw real hope shining in their eyes, was when I explained how the tool within Article V can save Kansans, and Americans, now and in the future. We must not ignore cries of the People when they are clamoring for Liberty!

A Convention of States will use Article V of our beloved Constitution to peaceably assemble for the purposes of creating an application to propose amendments. It is the only check on Congressional power that exists. The three branches were designed to have oversight by the States. This very important legislative body has equal footing in the Constitution alongside Congress to propose and create amendments. We have yet to use it as the Constitution was always considered adequate. I can guarantee you that if the States had been exercising this right all along and it were now being taken away, there would be fight.

Congress has an 18% approval rating and a 95% reelection rate. It doesn't matter which party is in power, the debt continues to rise. It doesn't matter which party is in power, both sides abdicate their legislative responsibilities and empower unelected bureaucrats to enact regulations. Both parties refuse to remove activist judges who overstep their authority and legislate from the bench. The government version of the Constitution is 2700 pages long and growing.

When I was young, someone pointed out the most significant and dangerous split in the United States has been between the elites and the rest of us. The rest of us have been left to navigate the consequences of the decisions of the elites: from unrestricted immigration to high taxes, while the elites use their means to levitate themselves above those decisions and those consequences.

“Of the People, By the People and For the People” is the true intent of Article V. If it weren’t clear enough, Article V is reinforced by the Tenth Amendment. It is time to change the way we’ve always done things if we expect different results.

If you are paying attention to the cries of the People, you will hear that they starve for Liberty and they thirst for Happiness. The People dream of Prosperity, when they can. They are desperate that you take a stand to put D.C. in check. We demand you take the first courageous step in responding to those needs of the People! Remind the career politicians in D.C. that they must earn the consent of the governed!

As their elected officials, you were chosen to speak for those People. Their voice is now your voice. Your duty is to choose the destiny of Kansas. Do not deny your constituents their voices. Do not deny them their Constitutional rights. Join with fourteen bold other states who have agreed it’s time to bring the power back to the People. Vote in favor of HCR5009.