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In favor of HCR 5009
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My name is Susan Waddle and I am from Spring Hill, KS, a small town in southern Johnson County. I am the wife of a small business owner, a mother of 4, a homeschool mom, and a foster parent.

Like most Americans I have become increasingly concerned about the continuing advancement of the Federal Government's overreach and invasion into our lives. It occurs in all 3 branches of government and it does not matter which party is in office. In his book "The Liberty Amendments," Mark Levin states the problem as follows:

"What was to be a relatively innocuous federal government, operating from a defined enumeration of specific grants of power, has become an ever-present and unaccountable force. It is the nation's largest creditor, debtor, lender, employer, consumer, contractor, grantor, property owner, tenant, insurer, health-care provider, and pension guarantor. Moreover, with the aggrandized police powers, what it does not control directly it bans or mandates by regulation."

This is the frustration of many Americans. My own personal concerns compelled me to go back to school and study law, and in 2015 I earned a Juris Doctorate and subsequently my law license. I wanted to know more about the history of our law and government, how it all began and how we ended up where we are today. I was also hoping to discover a way to not just plug up all the leaks in the damn of the limiting, enumerated powers of the government, that were meant to ensure our unalienable rights and liberties, but a way to shore up the entire wall.

When I heard about the Convention of States Project, I knew this was the answer. In fact, it is the very solution given to us by the Framers to rein in an overreaching and invasive Federal Government. It was as if the Framers knew this was an almost certain eventuality.

You will hear opponents say that the Constitution is just fine as it is, and the problem is with we the people who have allowed the government to violate our laws. The fact is that the Framers of our Constitution did not anticipate that modern-day politicians and bureaucrats would claim that the Constitution is a living, breathing document with broad and flexible language that can be changed and added to by the ever-changing whims of a society. This broad language has been interpreted by the federal judiciary in this volume called the Constitution Annotated, or CONAN for short.

This pocket Constitution says that all the legislative powers it grants are vested in Congress. Yet, we live beneath the weight of one hundred thousand pages of rules and regulations enacted not

by Congress, but by bureaucrats. These bureaucrats don't find support for their work in this Constitution as written but in CONAN.

For example, this pocket Constitution delegates no power over education to the national government. Yet today we have a powerful, national Department of Education, which employs over 4,000 people and has significant control over the education of Kansas children and how the State of Kansas spends education dollars.

Also, according to this pocket Constitution, Congress has the power to regulate commerce "among the several States." In the time that was written it was understood to address trade, as in the exchange of goods, between states. Yet today, Congress dictates what kind of cars citizens can drive, what kind of light bulbs we can buy, what kind of health insurance we must have, as well as forcing us to purchase this product to begin with.

You will hear opponents say that if Washington does not follow the Constitution now what make us believe they will follow new laws. The fact is that they do follow the Constitution now, only they follow it as it has been interpreted through judicial decisions and broadened through bureaucratic regulations.

You will also hear opponents say that the 9th and 10th Amendments have ample strength by law to restrain the Federal Government and that new amendments are not necessary to allow the States to nullify federal laws we find offensive. While refusing to accept federal funds for certain programs may accomplish a type of nullification, a state cannot nullify countless federal abuses of power and fiscal irresponsibility like bureaucratic regulations and spending that drives up our national debt.

An Article V Convention of States to propose amendments provides a process to restore the Constitution by utilizing the authority given the states in the Constitution. Accordingly, I ask for your support and for the passage of HCR 5009.

Thank you.