

February 6, 2023

Emily Hamburg

Opponent, HCR 5005, with written testimony only

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To: Chairman Carpenter and members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

I am testifying in opposition to HCR 5005 for applying to the Congress of the United States to call a convention of the states for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose limits on the federal government, specifically term limits in this case.

While I agree with the concerns often raised by other opponents of the Convention of States (COS) idea (the irony of violating the Kansas Constitution in order to amend the US Constitution, the concerns of a “runaway” convention, etc.), I would like to focus on the philosophical concerns that lead me to strongly oppose a COS and find it to be the absolute wrong approach even though I agree with all of the grievances of its proponents.

I am a lifelong Kansan and champion of liberty, fiscal responsibility, and absolute private property rights. However, I realize that there are 330 million very diverse individuals with a variety of subjective preferences and ways they wish to live that are residing in the US spread across the 3.8 million square miles of this land. I do not desire to try to persuade or coerce them all to live and think like me nor do I want them to attempt to do the same to me. I wish them all well, but I don't wish to have my freedoms and preferred way of life tied to them.

I would prefer for the Kansas Legislature to think locally and act locally to defend Kansans' liberties through the tools of nullification, decentralization, and, as a last resort, a peaceful parting of ways through secession instead of a COS.

You, as the state legislature, are already the bulwark against egregious federal overreach and attempts to trample our liberty. You proved that in late 2021 during your special session to defend us against President Biden's absurd vaccine mandates for private companies.

In the spirit of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, states are duty-bound to resist the overreach of the federal government. However, the tools to do this are already available to you. An attempt to hold a Convention of States would be unnecessary at best and would likely turnout to be very dangerous to our liberties in this current environment nationally.

I strongly urge you to oppose HCR 5005.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Hamburg
Bel Aire, KS