

Date: February 8, 2023
HCR 5005, Hearing in the House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Robert Wood, Kansas Citizen
Opposing HCR 5005, with written testimony
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Honorable members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

I oppose HCR 5005 for many reasons and have stood against it for over a decade.

Our country is in a constitutional crisis of monumental proportions. Over the last several years we have witnessed the wholesale dismissal of our Constitution, our Bill of Rights on the State and Federal level and the complete dismissal of the rights of the people in general by every level of government over a virus that was much less dangerous than others we have seen throughout history. Instead of following their oath to support and defend our Constitutions or their number one duty to secure the rights of the people, our representatives in government sat back and watched as the people had their businesses closed or severely limited, had their movement completely restricted and were forced to wear a state approved muzzle in order to take part in any “normal” activities or get shot up with an untested poison in order to work or attend many activities.

We have witnessed the disregard of every liberty this country was founded upon. To give our Constitution over to representatives with such little regard for it to amend at this time is to simply throw it onto the ash heap of history. It has been well documented the lack understanding of our basic liberty at all levels of government and it has been clearly demonstrated that we do not have men who are capable of either writing amendments in defense of liberty or enforcing them when written today. Glen Beck a major Conservative broadcaster with millions of viewers who was one of the biggest supporters of Convention of States came to the conclusion a couple of months ago that he rescinded all support for Convention of States because we don't have moral men capable of amending our sacred Constitution today. That was huge!

President Joe Biden recently made a statement that completely destroys any idea that more unenforced words amended into our Constitution will make any difference to the tyrants in DC.

“No amendment to the Constitution is absolute.” - President Biden

In context President Biden was referring to the most strongly worded amendment in the Constitution, the 2nd Amendment. A stronger statement cannot be written to defend our right to bear arms from government confiscation than, “the right of the people to keep and bear arms SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED”. Yet it was recently exposed that a Convention of States Board Member co-authored a rewrite of the 2nd Amendment and actually an entire “Conservative Constitution”.

So much for this being a limited convention...

Worst of all the language of their new 2nd Amendment is absolutely horrendous and gives us a good idea what to expect from those working at Convention of States on amendments to push through at a convention.

“Neither the States nor the United States shall make or enforce any law infringing the right to keep and bear arms *of the sort ordinarily used for self-defense and recreational purposes*, provided that States and the United States in places subject to its general regulatory authority, *may enact and enforce reasonable regulations on the bearing of arms, and the keeping of arms by persons determined, with due process, to be dangerous to themselves or others.*”

Those familiar with the rhetoric of the anti-gun Left will quickly recognize that this portion of the draft creates opportunities for federal and state governments to so regulate the private ownership of firearms to render such a right practically null and void.

But the draft of their “Conservative Constitution” goes far beyond essentially gutting the right to keep and bear arms. As one reads through the draft, its similarity to the language used by the Founding Fathers is striking. Mixed in with that language, however, are changes that, rather than making the document friendlier to the concepts of limited government and liberty, would create a constitution transferring vast swaths of power to the federal government.

This is clearly why their plan and their HCR5005 resolution must be stopped NOW!

Our Constitution is not the problem! It just needs enforced by the States and the people!

The Convention of States supporters in Kansas had the COS supporting Kansas Attorney General create a document declaring that the legislature could just ignore the State Constitutions 2/3rds vote requirement stating that the legislature “cannot be constrained by the people of Kansas.”

WHAT AN OUTRAGEOUS STATEMENT BY CONVENTION OF STATES!

This is a direct quote from the legal “opinion” touted by the “leader” of the Convention of States during a committee hearing 2 years ago in the Kansas Senate.

In this hearing he demanded that the Kansas Legislature violate the Kansas Constitution to ram his scheme through.

That’s right, the solution to fixing Washington, D.C., according to the Convention of States, starts with violating the Kansas Constitution!

Sadly, we saw the President of the Senate on the floor a few years ago state that he would declare the resolution passed under that scheme to violate the Kansas Constitution and pass a Convention of States resolution by simple majority if they got the simple majority vote. Thankfully many Senators stood up for our Constitution and refused to vote for the resolution under that scheme.

Unfortunately there are many others willing to violate the very Constitution they swore under God to support, just to RAM this resolution through again this year. And now we hear that they are going to actually have the out of control Federal Courts overrule the will of the people of Kansas and our 2/3rds constitutional requirement!

Is that not the exact problem we have today? Politicians in DC ramming through what they want in violation of our Constitutional limitations? Out of control Federal courts stomping on our rights and our State sovereignty. You must stop them trying to implement that same scheme here in Kansas again this year and tell them the will of the Kansas people will not be overruled!

Demand Convention of States openly rescind their scheme to violate our Kansas Constitution to unconstitutionally push through their resolution and send it to the swamp courts!

VOTE NO ON HCR 5005, the dangerous Convention of States resolution and tell Convention of States that *this is not how we operate in Kansas* and that you take your oath to the Constitution seriously and will not stand for any process or any organizations that wants you to disregard it!

We the People of Kansas who support our Constitution are watching and will not support anyone who dismisses our Constitution to get what they want!

Sincerely,

Robert Wood
Kansas Citizen in Defense of Liberty