



CONVENTION *of* STATES ACTION

TESTIMONY OF DAVID P. SCHNEIDER
PROPONENT FOR SCR 1607
KANSAS SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
MARCH 13, 2023

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

The resolution before you is an Article V application under the United States Constitution. The U.S. Constitution grants you the authority to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution in a way that by-passes Congress for the very purpose of imposing reforms Congress would never impose on themselves and others in the federal government.

In the last one hundred years, we have allowed the federal government to redefine the terms of the grant of powers enumerated in the U.S. Constitution granted to them by the States. Most of these redefined powers have come through activists in the courts continually stretching and tearing at limitations our Framers hardwired into the document. These actions have been compounded by the States lack of a cohesive response in any meaningful way over the years. Yes, states individually have tried to push back, but each time, the federal government continued to grow larger and more powerful, until today, where each state is relegated to nothing more than a ward of the federal government.

The Founders gave you a plan hardwired right into the Constitution to use. Col. George Mason was noted as saying at the Federal Convention in Philadelphia that the federal government would one day become too big and too strong and even oppressive to the will of the people. James Madison's notes from September 15, 1787, captured Mason's sentiment at that meeting, and it seems according to those very notes, every single delegate in attendance agreed. They unanimously put this action plan to call a convention for proposing amendments into Article V for you to act in the future.

The future is now. You sit here today as state legislators. Each of you make 1 of about 7,000 state legislators from the 50 states. To think about this process in Article V. Three quarters of all states need to agree before any proposed reform is adopted. That would mean roughly the vast majority of the 7,000 plus state legislators would also have to agree. 13 states individually can refuse to discuss the proposal, and that issue is dead.

I personally have been working on this initiative in Kansas for almost 10 years. I have traveled the state educating individuals on this worthy cause. When I first arrived in this building, I found only one legislator at the time knew what it was and was very happy to see me. We started the

process of education of legislators on the Constitution and their duty to act. Those early actions led me to bring others to the capitol to do the same with their legislators and to form relationships like I had done. Today, I am proud to say thousands of volunteers have been to Topeka to advocate for this resolution over the years.

Please support joining our neighbor states in this constitutional solution. The fact that we have allowed Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska should give some comfort in knowing state legislators in those states have carefully weighed this legislation and were comfortable enough to step and act. In total, 19 states have adopted this resolution and it is time to make Kansas number 20.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

David P. Schneider - Manhattan, KS