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**TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
KANSAS SENATE**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony today in support of your affirmative action on SCR 1611. I live in Shawnee, Kansas, where I am a retired business professional, active in local and state political campaigns, including my own for Shawnee City Council in 2015. But I have always been interested in politics as a student, observer, and theorist. I earned a BA in Political Science, with distinction for a senior thesis, from Southern Methodist University, and after working over three decades and raising my children I have returned, now as an activist.

The Problem

Truth seems difficult to find, these days, and justice even more so. Congressional committees spend much of their time investigating crimes and allegations of crimes. Since Congress does not have primary investigative or prosecutorial duties, except for impeachments and oversight for government bureaus and officials, there must be a lot of criminality going on in the federal government.

Recent news reports indicate that Congress may pass a budget. Now that would be amazing, in that a proper budget has not been passed with authorized appropriations since 2008. That's a decade this country's gone without spending authorities (Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution), and yet the government spends anyway, and more than it takes in.

I first became politically active in February 2009, when the Congress passed a \$900 million "stimulus" spending bill with the promise of making the economy healthy. Lessons about how government spending had failed to stimulate the economy in the 1930s were overlooked. And worse, since again, no budget was passed since the year before this new stimulus, the \$900 million has been spent again each year for the last ten, doubling our current debt, debasing our currency, and devaluing all of our human labor.

Also in 2009 came nationalized healthcare, something I never thought I'd see in America because our Constitution did not include making people enter into contracts to pay for their illnesses and is built upon an assumption that people will take care of themselves. Nationalized healthcare was, and is, something for monarchies, dictatorships, and socialist regimes. And economically, our experiment with it has driven up costs so that my otherwise retired wife has worked for the last six years to qualify us for group health insurance. We have chronic health conditions that being on the government exchanges quite simply would have cost us our home and our doctors.

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Today, even after a change of administration in Washington, Congress does not fulfill its promises to “pull out [nationalized healthcare] root and branch”. It fails to do what is right in so many aspects, all the while making excuses year after year. Congress also exempts itself from laws such as the nationalized healthcare it passes for us.

Left out of my description of our problems with the federal government are the dictates of the Judicial and Executive branches, which are often made without any basis in the Constitution or common law. Such dictates have run against the will of this and other States, who are supposed to be sovereign in things not granted by the Constitution to the federal government, and such dictates are most often against the will of the people’s duly elected representatives. I can name cases, but in the interest of time, I will not.

My conclusion is that the federal government no longer represents me; it rules me. And so I’ve been looking for some way to resolve this situation. Old solutions do not seem to work. Replacing Congressional representatives is an exercise in frustration and betrayal, since none deliver on their promises and all have been found to be spending more time each week on the phones raising money than they spend working out legislative solutions.

A Way to Do Something

After my bid for a city council seat failed in early 2015, I began to refocus on larger issues. The Convention of States Project revealed a potential solution that I had overlooked in my studies of American government, and it is the reason we are here today: the second clause of the section within the Constitution about how to amend it, Article V. In it is a momentous discovery: that States have standing to bring Constitutional amendments, and further, that state governments, which are much more accessible to the people because their elected officials represent far fewer people, actually share their citizens’ concerns about unfunded mandates from Washington D.C., the theft of property rights within their boundaries, and the capriciousness of the courts.

Here is exactly what those first two clauses state:

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States...

What this means is that if Congress is broken and unresponsive to repeated attempts to correct it, the people may go around Congress through their States to seek correction. This makes States a board of directors for the federal government, and the board is long past due for a proper meeting.