

February 14, 2018

Amanda Gress, Director of Government Relations
Kansas Action for Children
Testimony in Opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1611
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to this effort to call a convention of the states. Kansas Action for Children's vision is to make Kansas the best state to raise a child and to be a child, and our organization shapes health, education, and economic policies that improve the lives of Kansas children and families. **We oppose calling a convention of states because it risks our nation's ability to support critical investments in Kansas children.**

The federal government supports essential investments in Kansas children. Federal investments in the health, education, and economic well-being of Kansas children include federal funding for health insurance, nutrition programs, early care and development, public health, and education. Whether these investments flow through the state budget or directly to Kansas families, they prepare Kansas children for success later in life.

A balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution would risk our nation's ability to support these critical investments when they are needed most. During periods of economic downturn and job loss, more children and families access federal antipoverty programs to make ends meet. However, tax revenues typically decline during tough economic times. Requiring a balanced budget every year regardless of the state of the economy would compound economic challenges by forcing spending cuts, further weakening economic growth. It would also prevent our country from assisting children and families suffering from economic downturns at a critical time.

For these reasons, Kansas Action for Children opposes Senate Concurrent Resolution 1611. We urge you to reject this effort to protect our nation's ability to invest in Kansas children. Please do not hesitate to contact me (amanda@kac.org) if we can answer any questions.



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