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In favor of HCR 5009
13 March, 2018

To the Honorable Chairman and esteemed members of the Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

I am addressing you today in favor of HCR 5009, the resolution for Kansas to join with other states to call for an Article V Convention of States in order to meet and discuss possible solutions to reign in our out of control federal government.

As many of you know from my wife's letters, I am currently retired from the U.S. Army. I spent a lot of time overseas interacting with soldiers from other countries. Many of them think our Army is undisciplined and lacks order. I however, understand that in order to defeat an enemy that is willing to die for their beliefs and ideals, we must be flexible and willing to adapt at the lowest levels to meet the challenges thrown at us. What has made the U.S. Armed Forces so feared around the world is that we have the freedom at lower levels of command to change and adapt in order to complete our mission.

Policies, doctrine and regulations are there to provide guidance but the true power of our forces lies within the small units. Platoon sergeants and lieutenants are the first ones to see and understand what works and doesn't work against the enemy's tactics.

I support Convention of States Project because it is a process to bring political power back to the levels that can most efficiently deal with the problems and issues that affect our society. You, our local representatives, know what your constituents favor and dislike when it comes to laws and regulations that impact their lives. Article IV section 4 of the Constitution established our federal government as a Republic where the power should be held by the people and their elected representatives.

This quote from a fellow Kansan, Dwight Eisenhower explains the need to bring the power back to the states. "Against the possibility that ordinary and customary processes of self-government might weaken or be found ineffective or later laws and interpretations of original constitutional intent might conflict with the mass convictions of Americans, the Founders provided a final and decisive means to reformation and restoration by the people themselves. Through their state legislatures and without regard to the federal government, the people can demand and participate in constitutional conventions in which they can, through their own action, adopt such amendments as will reverse any trends they see as fatal to true representative government." He was referring to Article V of our Constitution as a way to reel in an out of control federal government.

I ask each of you to vote in favor of HCR 5009 to join together, with the fourteen states that have passed similar resolutions to call a Convention of States to convene a discussion concerning term limits of federal officials, fiscal responsibility and addressing the size, and jurisdiction of our federal government. We must bring the power back to you, our state legislators that truly represent; We the People.