

**March 13, 2019**

**Viola Heskett, for Kansans For Constitutional Integrity**

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**Written testimony only in FAVOR of HCR 5009**

**To the Honorable John Barker, Chair of the Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee and all House members of this committee:**

**On behalf of the grassroots organization Kansans For Constitutional Integrity which was formed in 2009 based on a desire to preserve both our US Constitution and the Kansas Constitution, this written testimony is submitted in favor of Kansas calling for a Convention of States.**

**This nation was birthed following years of multiple actions of overreach even abuse toward the citizens by the government system, the King of Britain. Our birth certificate, the Declaration of Independence, states clearly that when a government becomes destructive of citizens' liberties, they have the right to alter that government.**

**Today a similar lengthy list of overreaching actions by our federal government could be easily written reflecting a plethora of abuses of power.**

**This scenario was foreseen by our founders because they had experienced first hand that not only individuals but systems gradually become corrupt thus usurping powers beyond what is right.**

**As a result, our founders developed and included in our founding documents a mechanism to alter our form of government without the use of military or shedding of blood. That mechanism is defined in Article 5 of the United States Constitution. As written both the Congress AND the State Legislatures have equal opportunity to utilize Article 5.**

**Through the years the Congress has availed itself to utilize Article 5 such that twenty-seven amendments have been written and subsequently ratified by the state legislatures.**

**The time has come because of the seriousness and extent of the overreach by the federal government that the states rise up to reaffirm that our government was designed by and for WE THE PEOPLE and call a Convention of States. This specific Convention has been clearly defined and limited to discuss, address, and draft amendment(s) related to the most critical issues: fiscal restraints, limiting the**

**jurisdictional power of the federal government, and defining a limited term of office for members of Congress.**

**Because our founders were keenly aware of the propensity of human nature to excess, a stringent safeguard has been clearly defined: any proposed amendment emerging from the Convention of States MUST meet the same criteria to become part of our Constitution as those written by the Congress; three-fourths of the states must ratify each amendment. Just as three-fourths of the states were required to ratify Amendment thirteen to abolish slavery, Amendment sixteen to collect income taxes, Amendment nineteen establishing that women citizens of the United States have the right to vote so any proposed amendment from a Convention of States will have to meet that standard.**

**Therefore, as representative of Kansans For Constitutional Integrity, I implore you to vote in favor of HCR 5009.**

**Respectfully,**

**Viola Heskett**

**Kansans For Constitutional Integrity**

**Emporia, KS 66801**