

March 13, 2019
John Axtell, volunteer Coordinator for Kansas Campaign for Liberty
Opposing HCR 5009, with written and oral testimony
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To: Chairman Barker and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee

I am John Axtell, from Wichita. I am the volunteer coordinator for Kansas Campaign for Liberty.

To those who support this resolution, I empathize. Washington DC is out of control.

But this resolution, as currently worded, does not accomplish what its proponents want it to.

The current resolution includes language that calls for a convention to “impose fiscal restraints” and “limit the power and jurisdiction” of the federal government. However, restraints and limits are arbitrary, and could just as easily expand power in Washington rather than shrink it. More than that, this wording allows for proposed amendments on any topic, provided a fiscal restraint or limit of power is included.

This flaw in the resolution is too big and too important to ignore. Our Constitution is too important.

So while I have a problem with the wording of this resolution, I would strongly assert that the wording of our Constitution is not the problem. The problem is that we do not enforce the Constitution. We all know that state and federal statutes do not enforce themselves. They have a full-time professional force to enforce them, yet the supreme law of the land, our Constitution, relies on the citizens of this country to perform this role. And we have not done our job.

The words in our Constitution are not vague, weak, or needing clarification, as this resolution implies. The Constitution has very clear and “strong” provisions which are simply violated or ignored every day by Washington.

For example, the Constitution allows only gold and silver money (Article 1, Section 10, subsection 1). Yet we allow the Federal Reserve to wreak havoc on our poor and middle class, and to feed federal overspending until we have a 22 trillion dollar debt. And the American people let this happen.

The Constitution allows only Congress to declare war (Article 1, Section 8, subsection 11), yet Congress has not declared a single war since WWII, usually with horrible results because Congress did not have the sense of duty to follow the Constitution and thereby tell the troops clearly who they need to defeat so they can come home to their families. And the American people let this happen.

The Constitution requires that the government issue a warrant, specifying the things being sought, prior to searching a person’s effects (Amendment 4), yet Congress has authorized warrantless spying on all Americans for years. The American people let this happen.

These provisions are very clearly written, yet they are violated every day. The American people have let this happen, and that is the problem.

Stronger, clearer, more abundant, or just different words will not have any impact on this problem. Not one iota.

We need leaders – people who will be honest about what it takes to reign in out of control government and secure freedom and prosperity. Hard. Work.

We will save our nation when we decide to hold our elected officials strictly accountable to the sound principles of limited government, human dignity, and freedom already clearly stated in our great Constitution.

And when the American people decide to stand up and do that once again, Washington DC will no longer control nearly every aspect of our lives, as they do today. Instead we will again be free and prosperous, able to live our lives, barely knowing Washington exists at all.

I urge you to therefore vote against HCR 5009.