

Stephen J. Mattia
407 N. 6th Street
St. Marys, Kansas 66536
mattiasstephen@gmail.com

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Kansas Legislature
House Federal & State Affairs Committee

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

I want to thank the Kansas House Federal & State Affairs Committee for receiving my testimony in support of **HCR5027** also known as the Convention of States Resolution.

I am a citizen of the State of Kansas, residing in the county of Pottawatomie and the city of St. Marys. I count my blessings being able to live in this State. I believe our form of Constitutional Federal government to be a blessing to all of its citizens – worthy of our support and if needed our defense.

I have been involved in political action most of my adult life, now in my seventies, and at no time have I seen the national scene fraught with so much danger to our lives, liberties and property. We are experiencing out of control National Executive Branch actions in unconstitutional expansions of power and in negligence on not enforcing laws it does not like; we are seeing congressional powers which overreach and at the same time delegate legislative authority to an expanding administrative complex that no one elected; we note the Judicial branch's cave-in on its responsibilities to assure that the constitutional limitations on power are observed.

We experience run away national agencies being corrupted by a world view not shared by the American people. We suffer impending economic ruin, thirty trillion dollars in debt, the loss of individual liberties and the transformation of America from what it was to what we now fear it will become. The National government in all its branches and agencies have shown contempt for the Constitution and limitations on power. In fact, the amending of the Constitution process is an ongoing work with all the branches of the National government - they have changed the Constitution over and over again, for many years, in contradiction to the stated way the constitution itself has outlined.

There is a wise saying: Trying to do the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome - is a mark of insanity.

We were given the tool to fix the situation, not from the top down but from the bottom up – through the actions of the sovereign states which make up our Federal Union. Article V of our Federal Constitution was placed there for use at a time which we are now experiencing. It was the wisdom of our forefathers to foresee a time when absolute power does corrupt absolutely. Our National government cannot be expected to change itself. We can't expect the branches of the National government to reform themselves especially now that power has been so highly concentrated. The solutions must come from the States in convention - limited to proposing amendments to the

constitution that impose fiscal restrains on the National government, limits on the National governments power and jurisdiction, and limit terms of office of congress.

If we are wise, we will adopt this resolution because it meets the challenges of our times and stays within the framework of changing the constitution the way the founders intended. “Change is but a means of our preservation”.

Let us be true to our founding National document – the Declaration of Independence.

“ We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, **that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves before abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed.** (Emphasis mine)

Members of the Kansas Legislature, I implore you to adopt the resolution of **HCR5027** before it is too late. We must always seek peaceful means of change and our Constitution enables the framework for that peaceful change to take place. If we shut this avenue off, and continue down the road towards a transformation not sought by the American people then we are faced with a possibility stated in the Declaration – “ But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security.”

Please help Kansas join its neighboring States in upholding constitutional change – changes which could contribute to forming a more perfect Union and stemming the national decline.

Thank you for listening to your fellow citizens.

Stephen J. Mattia
St. Marys, Kansas
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