

Greg Short
2320 Oregon Terrace
Rantoul, KS 66079

In Favor of HCR5027
February 8, 2022

Chairman Barker and Committee Members,

My name is Greg Short. I was born and raised in Kansas and currently reside and work in Kansas. I've been married for 29 years and I'm the father of 4 children, including a son and daughter currently serving in the United States Marine Corps. I want to start by thanking you and the entire Kansas Legislature for the work you did in October and November of last year when you called and participated in a historic special session to address the federal government's overreach regarding vaccine mandates and to pass HB2001 to push back against unlawful federal mandates and protect the rights of the citizens of Kansas.

My testimony is in support of HCR5027 applying to the Congress of the United States to call a Convention of States to proposed amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose limits on the federal government.

Today, I ask for you to stand in the gap for the citizens of Kansas again. Our freedoms are being eroded daily by the federal government and their overreach. This is neither a republican nor a democrat issue. This is a power issue, where the federal government, regardless of who is in charge, has regularly and continually overstepped their enumerated powers and have taken our freedoms, bit by bit. While our freedoms have been eroded for many years, the COVID-19 pandemic has put a magnifying glass on the extent of that erosion and the level of overreach by our federal government. The current administration has basically set aside all constitutional rules "in the name of safety" and tread on our rights. The President of the United States is ruling like a King via executive order and complete disregard of all the things we hold dear. Many will point out that the US Supreme Court has ruled and struck down many of those mandates. That is true, however they didn't strike them all down. The US Supreme Court has become a very political place and we cannot trust them to rule constitutionally.

The 10th amendment to the Constitution was enacted to clarify that if the Constitution of the United States does not specifically provide a power to the Federal Government, that power resides with the States. Some examples of the overreach are summarized below.

Executive Orders:

- Executive Orders by President (Total/Average per year)
 - George Washington – 8 total/1 per year average
 - Thomas Jefferson – 4 total/0.5 per year average
 - Ronald Reagan – 381 total/48 per year average
 - Bill Clinton – 364 total/46 per year average
 - George W. Bush – 291 total/36 per year average
 - Barrack Obama – 276 total/35 per year average
 - Donald Trump – 220 total/55 per year average
 - Joe Biden – 79 total/77 per year average
- And the True King of the Executive Order
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt – 3,721 total/307 per year average

This is ridiculous. The US Constitution clearly shows that the President of the United States has no legislative power other than the ability to veto a law he disagrees with (and the congress can override and push it through anyway). But via executive order, the President takes on the power of a king to rule as he sees fit.

In addition to the above, consider how long people are currently serving in office. Take Joe Biden as an example. He served for 26 years in the senate, 8 years as vice president, and now is serving as President. That is almost 20% of the entire time the United States has been an independent country. There are numerous examples on both sides of the aisle of this. John Dingell – 59 years (retired 2019), Patrick Leahy – 47 years (still in office), Chuck Grassley – 47 years (still in office), Ted Kennedy – 47 years, Orrin Hatch – 42 years, Mitch McConnell – 37 years, to name a few.

Lets also consider the fact that every state except Vermont requires that the state operate with a balanced budget, but the federal government thinks this is nonsense. The federal deficit/total debt is out of control. It is imperative that we require significantly more fiscal responsibility than the federal government is currently exercising. Perhaps eventually getting back to a balanced budget (this will take time but should be the goal).

Year	Deficit	Total Debt
1930	\$1 billion	\$16 billion
1950	\$3 billion	\$257 billion
1980	\$74 billion	\$908 billion
1990	\$221 billion	\$3.2 trillion
2001-2008	\$2 trillion	\$10.0 trillion
2009-2016	\$7.3 trillion	\$19.6 trillion
2017-2020	\$5.6 trillion	\$27.7 trillion
2021	\$2.8 trillion	\$29.6 trillion

It is for these reasons that I am pleading my case to you, the legislators of the state of Kansas.

When I talk to my children and we discuss the mess that this country appears to be in, I tell them that there is hope. I tell them that the founders of this country, the drafters of the Constitution of the United States, saw the possibility of a tyrannical out of control government. They saw a time in which the federal government would desire more and more power and would not abide by the rules that were laid out for it. They saw a time that it would be clear that they had not captured everything that is required for the federal government to operate properly. For that reason, they included in Article 5 of the Constitution the ability of the States to call a Convention of States to amend the constitution in order to “right the ship”.

Imagine a country where:

- Legislators were limited to a reasonable time in office.
- The federal government was required to balance its budget just like you and I, as well as 49 states are required to.
- Omnibus spending bills were eliminated, and each spending item was brought to the floor on its own merit, not hidden amongst other things that people are afraid to vote against.
- The President of the United States has limited or no ability to issue executive orders that bypass the will of the people.

The above bullets will never be considered by the federal legislature. They will never vote themselves out of office. They will never vote to reduce their own power. They will never give up their “pet legislation” and “earmarks” that ensure they get elected over and over. They will never take away the president’s power of executive orders because they want that power if/when they or their party are in power. It therefore falls to you, the State of Kansas to do your part. To stand up against the federal government. To take back the power that rightfully belongs to the States, and put the federal government back in the constitutional cage they were meant to be restrained by. We the citizens of the State of Kansas ask that you take up our cause and fight for us. It won’t be easy, but few things that matter are.

To close, I would like to remind you of the words of President John F. Kennedy.

“Life is never easy. There is work to be done and obligations to be met – obligations to truth, to justice, and to liberty”

Thank you for your time and may God Bless this Country and the State of Kansas.

Greg Short