

Written Testimony in Favor of HCR 5009 – Convention of States

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Honorable Elected Representatives of “We the People”:

A time has come in our state and nation when we are at a desperate crossroads for the very life and soul of our country. We are being split apart by divisive means to an end that will bear out enslavement of the American people and or a destruction of all we love and cherish. President Abraham Lincoln observed “*A house divided against itself cannot stand.*”, which was not original to him but rather came from a much higher authority, and displays eternal, unchangeable truths. My name is Nathan Johnson, my family and I have lived in Kansas for 10 years where I am employed as an Aerospace/Mechanical Systems engineer. I am a veteran of the U.S. Navy and spend much of my time teaching my own children, as well as, mentoring boys through a program called Royal Rangers. I have a strong passion for teaching others about our nation’s history and our responsibilities as citizens.

Our nation was born out of understanding of where true liberty originates with the immortal words “*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.*” Although the men who instituted these enduring words were themselves imperfect the intent, virtues, words and meaning are timeless. One man is not a greater than another or his lord but rather even though we all may have different stations in life we are all subject to the same “Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God”. There are no carve outs for ‘special rights’ which would allow one special privileges above the law or the same laws above another based on sex, ethnicity, privilege or lack thereof. All men are created equal which means the law applies equally to all; not for equal outcome but equal treatment under it. That a man (mankind) is judged by his actions and content of character not the color of his skin or the supposed privilege or oppression. For more than two hundred years this was understood by all that the Constitution protected these Rights of Freedom and protected the rights of all not just the wealthy or the poor, not just the man but the woman, not just the advantaged but also the less advantaged. This is because it was not based on a merit system but bestowed to all mankind regardless of who you are. Its because these are the basic rights to mankind from the Hand of Almighty God not the hand of man or a government instituted by man.

Unfortunately, we have now come to a roadblock in the law by many who are thwarting the law and ultimately the Supreme Law of the Land (Constitution) and substituting it with their own idea of rules. Our common laws are being flagrantly disobeyed by government officials and judges who believe they can make any or all changes they wish at their whim. This leads to lawlessness and a break down of civil society. This is not the design of our Framers handed down to us but rather a design of Marxism and other Communist ideals to break down civil society and institute a totalitarian government. We also observe judges that step outside of their constitutional bounds making laws via rulings that are not only beyond their enumerated powers but specifically warned against by the very men who framed our form of government. We have now become a nation where officials at their whim bestow special rights to non-citizens that exempt them from prosecution from criminal activity

to the harm of American Citizens to whom the constitutional guarantee of rights actually apply. Even our schools have been modified to teach our children that America is an evil nation and should be punished for sins past, driving a wedge to separate us from our history.

We have past national sins for which we have paid dearly to correct. The men who brought us the Constitution warned of the sin of slavery and what it would cause and we fought to correct that at a cost of more than 600,000 American lives. More good and lifting of people out of poverty, helping the poor, sick and downtrodden around the world has come from America than all other nations of the world throughout all history combined. We have never taken possession of another land or nation when conquered during a war but rather re-built them at our expense and set them back on a path of national sovereignty contrary to any other conquering nation. Contrary to some popular thinking we are not an empire-building nation in the idea of us building ourselves. Why have so many throughout history wanted to come to America, "yearning to breathe free" if we were so oppressive. Severe oppression and slavery still exist in the world but not here. Ethnic depression did exist here in large portions of society but that is no longer the case. These issues still exist around the world, where are those that call for them to change their ways, their form of government?

Our unique form of government was not lightly debated and formed without a deep understanding of mankind and human nature but rather it took a year of heavy debates and design by men of great understanding and wisdom. Even after its completion there were men that refused to sign because it did not have enough protections for the individual and the states. So after ratification the bill of rights were proposed, debated and passed through the states for ratification similar to what is being proposed through Convention of States. The method for proposing and ratifying amendments is outlined in Article V (5) of the Constitution with two methods of modifying our form of government. The first is by 2/3's of Congress proposing an amendment and 3/4's of Congress ratifying it. The second, Convention of States also requires the same standards of ratification was specifically addressed by the Framers in case the people in Congress refuse to hold themselves to account and begin to subvert the will of the people. This secondary means of amending our Constitution, although not used previously, is no less a viable and valuable means of making the changes we need as a nation to restore our strength as a Republic and return the power to We the People.

There are 20 serious warnings given by George Washington during his Farewell Address (added in later for reference) and almost every one of them are being violated by an out of control government today. They not only violate the freedoms of the individual but the design and authority of the states causing them to be less united and more subservient. These attacks on our Foundational Principles are not Republican or Democrat issues but all are guilty of overstepping their bounds of giving in to the natural proclivity of man that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely". The individual is more inclined to look after his freedoms than a person that has been removed from the people and been isolated from them and lured by siren song of money and power. To a greater degree with every passing year where judges and politicians become more elitist or partisan, the hope and idea that these men will rein themselves has proven to be futile. Even when we send off those with good intentions and vision they are quickly turned and become part of the problem or rendered useless to the ends to which we sent them.

Having been one that has repeatedly sent off representatives hoping that they will make changes and return us to the freedoms that our fathers and grandfathers enjoyed I have come to understand these men either will not or cannot restore the order to which we as America had enjoyed for centuries. I have come to the conclusion there is but one way to restore our Republic to order and

restore the freedom to the American citizen. Those changes must come through amending our Constitution using the Convention of States as outlined in Article V. I firmly believe we can use the Constitution to save the Constitution and our form of government, to place us back on the tracks as per our national charter, the Declaration of Independence and its tool of implementation the Constitution. As such I am in support of HCR 5009 and hope that as representatives of the people you will work with all diligence to support and affirm this bill that we may take the steps to restore our Constitution by voting in favor of this bill. I pray that we as a people heed the warnings from the Father of Our Nation and use the tools they so wisely gave us.

### **20 Warnings from George Washington's Farewell Address**

1. Be vigilant, people will seek to use the government for selfish ends.
2. Avoid overgrown military establishments; they are hostile to liberty.
3. Prevent all obstructions to the execution of the laws.
4. Control bureaucracies; make sure they all work together.
5. Avoid political parties; they will cause divisive factions and unscrupulous men will use them to undermine the government.
6. Give allegiance to the Constitution; improve it as necessary.
7. Do not alter the Constitution lightly, or based on hypothesis; apply the experience applied when it was created.
8. Be suspicious of administrators; they may serve themselves rather than the people.
9. Watch for consolidation of power in any department of government.
10. Preserve existing checks and balances and add more where power needs to be checked.
11. Religion and morality are essential to create the virtue necessary to preserve the union.
12. Promote widespread education; democracy requires literate citizens that understand the system of governance and take responsibility for themselves.
13. Avoid debt; and immediately discharge any debt created by war.
14. Taxes are unpleasant; government spending should be candidly conducted.
15. Cultivate peace and justice toward all nations.
16. Avoid alliances and maintain neutrality among nations.
17. Avoid dependency; a weak state that allies with a stronger state will become its servant.
18. Real patriots will resist intrigues, while dupes will surrender to interests.
19. In trade, give no nation a favored nation status.
20. Be guided by principles, not interests.

Respectfully,

Nathan Johnson