

871 Rd 225

Americus, KS 66835

Mark McAllister

Kansas House of Representatives Federal and State Affairs Committee

### **Testimony**

America is an exceptional place because of the principles upon which it was founded.

I didn't choose the place I was born, and I didn't request the freedoms I enjoy. In fact, I could have been born in any of the countries of the world, but the Divine Creator chose to put me here. Here in Kansas, the heart of the country where freedom rings and brave men stand, the United States of America. A land where I have the freedom to fail and the opportunity to succeed, a land where I, along with my fellow countrymen, participate in and determine the course of where we will go as a country, a land where I have the ability to hold and guide the reins of government, a land where my government's only purpose is to preserve, protect, and defend my God given inalienable rights, a land where freedom means enough to people they are willing to give their lives that that freedom might live, a land where freedom and its blessings are passed generation to generation, a land where brotherly love and liberty supersedes interpersonal differences. This, this is the land I have the privilege of calling home.

For me, the gratitude for such a prodigious blessing is at times fairly overwhelming. But with that gratitude comes an indisputable urge and keen responsibility to follow the footsteps of my forefathers and preserve to my children what they so graciously preserved to me.

America is a special place because America is a special idea. As the Declaration of Independence states, the idea that, "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights...that to secure these rights governments are instituted

among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...”. These axioms of eternal truth inherently limit the scope and power of government because the result of these principles is a government which protects the freedoms of its citizens and which does not trample their freedoms and control their lives. America’s success is built on the foundation of limited government which derives its power from the consent of the governed.

Over the past hundred years that foundation has been tested, overruled, and to some extent even abandoned. Now today, as the very foundation is questioned our nation is begins to deteriorate, the national spending consistently exceeds the means we have, our rights begin to come under question, and as the talk of socialism begins to take foot in the freest country on earth, those of us Americans, you and me, who only wish to preserve the liberties and privileges we enjoy and pass them on to our kids, we struggle to understand the uncertainty surrounding America, her politics, and her future. The foundation of America is what we are in the process of abandoning when we should be in the process of taking up the cause of America’s principles, the cause of limited government.

The pinnacle of American society is that American government exist only at the hands of the consent of the governed. Those of us who swore an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Kansas and those of us who elected our representative, we both represent the people of the United State of America. When a problem arises in government we have the ability and simultaneous obligation to address that problem.

A Convention of the several states is the means you and I poses to address our national problems when our national government has failed to address those problems. A Convention of

States is the means for the people of America to voice their concerns regarding the principles of American government, the principles of the Declaration.

Thomas Paine in his published work *Common Sense* sincerely noted that, “Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.” It’s time to support freedom, it’s time for a national discussion, it’s time to call a Convention of States, and it’s time to take a step in the direction of success. Above all it is time for us to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.