

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612



(785) 291-3500
blake.carpenter@house.ks.gov

Blake Carpenter
House Speaker Pro Tempore
Representative, 81st District

February 28, 2024

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

As a member of the Kansas Legislature and a co-author of HB2807, I stand before you today to express my strong support for this crucial piece of legislation. Our discussions on the feasibility of an Article 5 convention have often been hampered by concerns of a "runaway convention" and uncertainties regarding the delegate selection process. HB2807 aims to address these concerns head-on by providing a clear, structured method for the appointment of delegates from Kansas to any such convention.

Historically, it was the legislators of the states who represented their constituents at our nation's constitutional convention at the founding of our country. This tradition underscores the accountability and representation such delegates owe to the people they serve. HB2807 is crafted in this spirit, designating members of the Kansas Legislature as delegates to ensure that our state's representation is both accountable and in line with the practices established at the founding of our nation.

By expanding delegate selection to include members chosen by each caucus and legislative leadership, we ensure a diverse and comprehensive representation. This approach allows for a broad spectrum of voices and perspectives within our state's legislative process, fostering a more inclusive and democratic selection mechanism. Delegates and alternates, deeply versed in Kansas' legislative intricacies and directly accountable to the populace, are thus appointed through a collaborative effort that reflects the collective will and diversity of our legislature. This inclusive strategy reinforces our commitment to participatory democracy, echoing the foundational principles of representation and accountability.

Furthermore, this legislation outlines the responsibilities, qualifications, and procedures for the recall of delegates, ensuring that our state's representatives at an Article 5 convention act within the confines of their mandate and in the best interest of Kansas. By doing so, HB2807 not only provides clarity and structure for the selection and conduct of delegates but also safeguards against the potential for actions that could deviate from our collective goals and principles.

In conclusion, HB2807 represents a thoughtful, deliberate approach to a complex issue. It ensures that Kansas is prepared for an Article 5 convention, should one be called, with a delegation that is representative, accountable, and capable of advocating for the interests of our state and its citizens. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, ensuring that Kansas leads by example in promoting a transparent, responsible, and democratic process for constitutional advocacy and amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blake Carpenter", written over a horizontal line.

Blake Carpenter
Speaker Pro Tempore
District 81