



Individual Liberty
Economic Liberty
Strengthen Families
Sovereign States Rights
Ending Judicial Activism

March 12, 2015

HCR 5010 Article V Convention
Proponent testimony in favor of this bill

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

The central problem with American government is the belief that the purpose of government is to provide for our needs. Washington, D.C. carefully nurtures this belief because it serves its own prime purpose, the aggregation of federal power. Accordingly, Washington, D.C. has gradually amassed overwhelming power that is clearly outside of the boundaries that the Framers intended when they wrote the Constitution.

This improper aggregation of power crisis, in fact, arises indirectly from the Constitution itself. The Constitution permits the federal judiciary to be the final interpreter of the Constitution (1). Because the Framers did not have any meaningful experience with the practice of judicial review, they did not construct adequate checks and balances vis-à-vis the judiciary.

Accordingly, the Constitution, as interpreted by the Supreme Court today, is in fact the problem. This interpreted Constitution allows runaway spending, undeclared wars, government agencies spying on the citizens, massive debt that will impose economic slavery on our children, rule by executive order, coercive medical insurance, and the rise of a dominating bureaucracy.

All of these things are constitutional according to the Supreme Court or lower federal courts. Moreover, the two most abused provisions of the Constitution have been amenable to abuse because they were not written tightly enough to effectively implement the drafters' intentions.

Voting for a Republican majority in Congress has accomplished nothing. Republicans, who supposedly support limited government, have gone along with the vast expansion of federal power. The Republican Party is not the party of small government, when Republicans controlled Congress and the White House, when Democrats controlled Congress, and every combination in between. No matter which party is in charge, the federal government continues to grow and Americans' liberty continue to diminish.

We need a Convention of the States: to diminish the power of the federal government. Under **Article V** of the U.S. Constitution, two-thirds of the state legislatures can call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution that limit the scope and jurisdiction of the federal government.

Washington is unable to solve the huge problems facing the country. Washington is never going to fix itself. Most people know Washington is broken. Politicians care about the next election, not the next generation. The career politicians make promises knowing they will be out of office when the bills come due. The U.S. financial system will collapse if something is not done about the federal government's out-of-control spending. The Founders trusted the states and the people to step up and defend their own liberty and sovereignty.

The wisdom of our Founders to have included the Convention of States provision in Article V in the Constitution because they knew someday government might grow too big, take on too much debt and promulgate reams of regulation that stifle American prosperity. There is no question that is the Washington that exists today.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Brown