

# CONVENTION OF STATES HJR24-1024

Chairman Woodrow, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. My name is Dr. James Oates, representing the Convention of States organization. I am here to support this bill because Colorado needs to have a voice at the Convention of States. I am a former US Navy Hospital Corpsman and now a retired Doctor of Dental Surgery. I will address the subject of Federal Jurisdiction Overreach. This will be an agenda item at the Convention of States.

Federal Jurisdiction Overreach is when Federal agencies and bureaucracies make their own laws and apply them to the states as the supreme law of the land without the input of the congress or president. These agencies are administered by non-elected officials who often spend their entire career in these agencies. These agencies include EPA, CDC, Homeland Security, NIH, FDA, U.S. Department of Education, and many other federal agencies and bureaucracies.

Time does not permit me to delve into all these agencies, so I will use the U.S. Department of Education as an example. Every state has a department or agency of education that oversees the administration and curriculum of their state schools. They are best suited to assess the educational needs of their state and local communities. The U.S. Department of Education has a budget of over \$68 Billion dollars and over 4,400 employees. The proposed budget for 2025 is \$82 Billion dollars. Their mission is **Promote Student Achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access**. The entire department is failing its mission. In the 1960's and 70's the US ranked number one in the world in education. It now ranks 13th overall, but 38th in math and 24th in science. Their overreach requires states to use or not use specific books, present specific courses, curriculum, and adopt specific administrative procedures. State Departments of Education can do a better job of tailoring their curriculum to educate their students appropriately.

I encourage the committee and Colorado to support HJR-24-1024 and participate in the Convention of States where the size and scope of Federal Agencies will be debated, and resolutions drafted to amend the Constitution appropriately.

Does the committee have any questions for me?

Respectfully submitted April 22, 2024,

  
Dr. James Oates