

Michael Forbis: Convention of States (COS) Testimony – Cure for the American Nation

To members of the committee, my name is Michael Forbis and thank for letting me speak with you today on the Convention of States Resolution. During the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln led the nation through its greatest trial and division in U.S. History. There were 620,000 American lives lost on the battlefield, and the magnitude of losses was strong evidence of the country's division. Slavery was the core issue at this division, and Lincoln believed the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery was necessary to help end the division and heal the nation from the Civil War. President Lincoln called the 13th Amendment "the King's cure for all the evils." In other words, Lincoln believed God used the 13th Amendment to help heal the nation from the Civil War.

In today's age, the United States faces another great division, and it's about the increased centralized power that exists within the federal government. For example, members of Congress have become career politicians, and they refuse to give up power. In addition, the federal government has not been disciplined in spending because the national debt has grown exponentially and out-paced the gross domestic product. The American public has great distrust and senses enormous corruption within the federal government, and it is time for a cure to come forth to help heal the nation. The U.S. Constitution Article V amendment process involving a Convention of States is the best approach to help heal the nation, and its sole purpose is to limit the power of the federal government. The Convention of States can propose a series of amendments to limit the power of the federal government, and it serves as a cure to help heal the nation from its current divide. So, let's apply the historical lesson from President Abraham Lincoln and use the amendment process to the U.S. Constitution to help heal the nation. For Colorado, it can start with this committee passing the Convention of States Resolution and sending it to the main House Floor for full consideration! Thank you.

Passage of 13th Amendment

Government Element	Vote Summary	Timeframe
U.S. Senate	38 (86%) – Yes, 6 (14%) – No Note: 6 did not vote	April 8, 1864
U.S. House of Representatives (1 st Attempt)	93 (59%) – Yes, 65 (41%) - No Note: 23 did not vote	June 15, 1864
U.S. House of Representatives (2 nd Attempt)	119 (68%), 56 (32%) – No Note: 8 did not vote	January 31, 1865

Order of Ratification: 36 States in the Union in year 1865 (6 states ratified after 1865)

1. IL – Feb 1	9. ME – Feb 7	17. MN – Feb 23	25. AL – Dec 2	29. CA – Dec 19, 1865
2. RI – Feb 2	10. KS – Feb 7	18. WI – Feb 24	26. NC – Dec 4	30. FL – Dec 28, 1865
3. MI – Feb 3	11. MA – Feb 7	19. VT – Mar 8	27. GA – Dec 6	31. IA – Jan 15, 1866
4. MD – Feb 3	12. VA – Feb 9	20. TN – Apr 7	By Dec 6, 1865, 27 of 36 states (or 75%) ratified the 13 th Amendment. It was officially in the Constitution.	32. NJ – Jan 23, 1866
5. NY – Feb 3	13. OH – Feb 10	21. AR – Apr 14		33. TX – Feb 18, 1870
6. PA – Feb 3	14. IN – Feb 13	22. CT – May 4		34. DE – Feb 12, 1901
7. WV – Feb 3	15. NV – Feb 16	23. NH – Jul 1	Note: both were slave states	35. KY – Mar 18, 1976
8. MO – Feb 6	16. LA – Feb 17	24. SC – Nov 13		36. MS – Mar 16, 1995

- Border State

- Confederate State

Note: both were slave states