

Sharon Vincze - District 8 - Testimony for Convention of States

Thank you, Mr. Chair and Committee members for your time and service.
My name is Sharon Vincze. I live in Commerce City, District 8.

I was blessed to grow up in this country with parents honed by the depression and determined their children would have it better than they did. The first of my family to attend college, I advanced in a business career that allowed me to raise two children as a single mother. As a grandmother now, I'm angry about the country we're handing over to the next generation. They deserve better, like my grandson who alongside others, deploys to the Middle East next month with the Colorado Army National Guard.

For far too long, we've witnessed the damage that an unchecked federal bureaucracy can do. And although people are outraged about our national debt, the southern border, or other crises, they feel powerless to do much about it. ***But the fact is, there's something we can all do about it! We can use the 'life raft' that our Founding Fathers gave us in Article V of the Constitution. That Article was explicitly written for times like today, when the Federal government is no longer the solution, but the problem. It's likely the last peaceful tool the states will have to reclaim their sovereignty and restore a balance of power between them and the federal government.***

Article V requires that thirty-four state legislatures pass a resolution in each chamber of their legislatures, after which a delegate from all 50 states will meet to discuss and pass amendments that address term limits, fiscal responsibility, and federal restraint. Today, **over half of the required number of states have passed the resolution. We pray Colorado will join them!**

Let's do this for our children and grandchildren!

Please vote to move the Resolution out of Committee and to the House for a full debate and vote. Thank you for your time.

Chairman and members of the committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of an Article V Convention of States. Our nation's founding principles are deeply rooted in the belief that power should ultimately reside with the people and the states, not just in Washington, D.C.

An Article V Convention of States provides a constitutionally prescribed method for addressing issues that are not adequately handled by Congress alone. It allows state legislatures to propose amendments to the Constitution, providing a crucial check and balance to federal authority.

An Article V Proposal Convention is not a partisan issue; it is about safeguarding our union and ensuring that our government remains accountable to the people. It provides a constitutionally prescribed method for addressing issues that Congress won't take up. Contrary to concerns about risk, the process is designed with safeguards. Any amendments proposed at such a convention must still be ratified by three-fourths of the states, ensuring a high threshold for constitutional changes. This process has been carefully crafted to allow for meaningful dialogue among states while maintaining a robust system of checks and balances.

While some may raise concerns about the need or potential risks of an Article V Convention of States, it's important to recognize the practical benefits it offers. This process provides a peaceful and lawful means for states to propose solutions to pressing national issues. Rather than being risky, it is a structured and transparent approach that empowers states to address challenges that are not adequately addressed at the federal level. By working together states can propose amendments that benefit all Americans and uphold the principles of our republic.

In conclusion, I urge this committee to consider the merits of this approach and pass this resolution on to the house floor.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Article V, Convention of States Term Limits

Good afternoon. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Dennis Powelson. I live in Brittany Pettersen's Seventh District.

I am here to urge you to vote in favor of the Convention of States resolution.

Because of the wisdom of our Founding Fathers, an alternate method to amend the Constitution was inserted in Article V of the Constitution. The people have a way to address and resolve perceived issues with the way our federal government is functioning, or not functioning, as the case may be.

I would like to bring the issue of Congressional Term Limits to your attention.

Career politicians are not what the Founding Fathers envisioned. Congress today has an historically low 14% approval rating. Not only is Congress dysfunctional in terms of passing legislation, it is burdened with career entrenched politicians whose first priority seems to be to stay elected.

Regarding these entrenched career politicians, why does it seem like:

- o fund raising is more important than passing legislation,
- o they get richer the longer they are in power,
- o they are re-elected every term despite their lack of productivity,
- o they cling to their old ideas and lose perspective of the ever changing needs of the people,
- o they are in office for literally decades even though many are failing physically and mentally.

There are too many issues with career politicians to ignore any longer.

82% of voters want to see term limits established. Yet Congress continues to ignore the will of the people by failing to vote for term limits on themselves.

This is not a left or right issue, it's an American issue.

That is why this Convention of States approach is so very important. I have faith that the delegates to the Convention of States will address any concerns and arrive at sensible and workable language for a Term Limit Amendment.

On behalf of the will of the people, I am asking that you to pass the resolution that will ultimately enable the Convention of States to convene to resolve this important issue.

Thank You.

Thank you for hearing our testimony regarding this important resolution:

My name is Sheri Tuffield and I live in Unincorporated Arapahoe County in State House District 61.

I moved to Colorado in 1975 to attend college at the University of Colorado. It was the natural beauty that was one of the things that drew me here, but the pioneering spirit and independent minded thinkers that made up the population was also a huge attraction.

In the ensuing decades, I have watched as the leaders of this great state have become less inclined to be representative of that mindset and instead have allowed the command and control attitude of a centralized federal government take over decision making powers. I believe the people in control of our state government would prefer to make those decisions closer to home as the elected representatives of their constituents.

Article V of the Constitution allows this. If passed, the Convention of States resolution before you, allows states to reclaim their rights. The resolution would allow the states to call for a Convention of States at which amendments could be proposed to rein in the out of control spending and bureaucratic overreach of the federal government. Term limits is another issue that could be addressed. The important thing to remember is, the STATES would get to discuss and decide what issues are considered.

The bottom line is, power would be returned to the states and the federal government overreach would be reigned in. But none of this can happen unless the states take advantage of Article V in the constitution and call for a Convention of States.

I strongly urge you to pass the Convention of States resolution and begin the process of returning power to Colorado and the people you represent. Thank you for your time.

Michael Forbis: Convention of States (COS) Testimony – 2024

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.

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

04/22/2024 01:30 PM

HJR24-1024 Call for an Article V Convention of States

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Walter Rutledge For themselves	<p>Gentlefolk,</p> <p>Thank you for your work on this committee.</p> <p>A Constitutional Convention is fraught with danger, yet it is the only way citizens can affect a Supreme Court which feels it can change, and not simply interpret, the Constitution. Thus my attention was drawn by the fourth Whereas on lines 4 & 5 of page 2. I can also endorse the remaining statements of the opening section.</p> <p>I understand that the single-subject rule would mean my next suggestion can not go into HJR24-1024 itself, so I ask that you arrange separately, that the selection of delegates to such a convention be handled as presidential electors are elected currently.</p> <p>Finally I ask you to vote YES on HJR24-1024.</p> <p>-- Walter James Bennett Rutledge</p>

I'm Karla Pendleton, HD 59. A catastrophe befell my tiny home town of Silverton in San Juan County. Millions of gallons of stinking, toxic waste water were released by a federal agency, overriding local authority, and drilling into a closed mine bulkhead. Thank God no lives were lost, but damage to our beautiful county was sustained and remains.

In 1984, the US Supreme Court granted unprecedented and unconstitutional power to the administrative state, allowing **UNELECTED** bureaucrats to wield **LEGISLATIVE** authority. This decision has eroded the vital checks and balances of our constitutional republic for over four decades. The Constitution vests ALL legislative authority in an **ELECTED** Congress, not the courts, not the executive, and certainly **NOT** an unconstitutional fourth branch.

Under this ruling, federal agencies were empowered to create laws, using the misguided notion that they possess superior expertise. The catastrophe in San Juan County serves as a stark reminder of the dangers posed by unchecked federal agencies and their impact on We the people of Colorado. The administrative state now operates as an unchecked tyranny.

The consequences of this tyranny are felt daily in San Juan county, where over 90% of the land is controlled by **unelected** and **unaccountable** federal agencies. Article V of the US Constitution places the final check upon federal tyranny with you, **state**

legislators. I urge you to support HJR24-1024, moving it to the house floor for debate by those **ELECTED** to make law in Colorado.

My final question is this...Will the Colorado general assembly continue to tolerate the tyranny of the federal administrative state, or will Colorado state legislators provide a check on tyranny?

Thank you for your thoughtfully considered answer.