

Testimony in Opposition to SCR 4003

To: Judiciary Committee

Chair, members of the committee, thank you for considering my statement. My name is George Goodman, from District 1, Williston, where I live. In fact, I grew up in Williston, moved away to college in 1979, lived in Chicago from 1983-2016, and returned to Williston in 2016 and have lived and resided there ever since.

I support calling an Article V convention to amend the U.S. Constitution because that appears to be the only way to reign in federal deficit spending; to return the reach of federal legislation to Congress's original jurisdiction based on less expansive interpretation of the Commerce Clause; and to curb careers in federal government through term limits. The State of North Dakota should welcome better-delineated limits on the federal government, which generally grows at the expense of state power. The amendments are still needed under new President Trump because the problems will continue and even he should welcome and be subject to better-delineated Constitutional limits. Some have raised concerns of a run-away convention, but I do not share those concerns because the Article V process is laid out in such a way as to control amendments (including that the amendments have to track the initial Article V resolution and any amendments adopted at the convention still have to be ratified by the states); the original Constitution was drafted and enacted with no such framework at all, and I have faith in people to do as well today, particularly with the benefit of nearly 250 years' experience that the founders did not have; some of the run-away concerns stem from amendments that smack of Marxism or globalism whereas the proposed COS is made up of honorable patriotic people; and the concerns assume doing nothing is an option but I see the country potentially spiraling out of control. Nor is North Dakota's Article V resolution obsolete, particularly given that the rejection of a similar attempt to rescind it a couple years ago was a recent reconsideration, essentially a repassing, of the resolution, and COS continues to push other states to pass the same resolution. North Dakota's resolution has to match up with the resolution passed in the other states to count. This is nothing like North Dakota's passage of the Equal Rights Amendment decades ago, the rescission of which I would support as circumstances have changed a lot since then.