

Testimony in support of SCR 4012

Chairman Roers, Vice-Chairman Barta and State and Local Government Committee Members:

There is much uncertainty surrounding how an Article V convention would function.

I don't think it prudent to call for a convention without a clear understanding of its operational procedure. If it's being called for, we should know exactly what we are asking for.

Neither those in support or opposition of this resolution can assert full knowledge of how an Article V convention would play out. There is also no guarantee that a convention would result in the passing of an amendment, so all the work and expense of calling one may be fruitless in the end.

In 2015, the North Dakota legislature submitted a call for an Article V convention for the purpose of passing a balanced budget amendment. There hasn't been any effort, that I'm aware of, that any attempt has been made to submit a so called balanced budget amendment for ratification, by simply using the same process that was used to ratify each and every amendment to the United States Constitution, after the tenth amendment. If a balanced budget amendment, or any other amendment, had sufficient merit, in my opinion, the submission of any amendment for ratification to the states could or would be ratified by that same process.

In view of the current large and rising national debt, calling for a national convention would not be in the best interest of both legislative and judicial economy, especially when it could be accomplished by a less costly process by simply submitting the amendment to the states for ratification as has been done in the past.

Madame Chair Roers and members of the State and Local Government Committee, I strongly urge that you reconsider North Dakota's application for an Article V convention.

Please vote Do Pass on SCR 4012.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lydia Scarnici

Valley City, ND