

Testimony of Dale W. Burke
Regional Captain ND Region 1, Convention of States Action
in opposition to SCR 4012

Good morning Madam Chairman, distinguished members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, and guests. When I raised my right hand and swore an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic to enlist in the US Army, much like each of you did when elected to your seat in the North Dakota Senate, I took that oath seriously and served for over 7 years until a training accident ended my military career. That dedication to my oath is what brings me here today in opposition to SCR 4012.

I became a volunteer activist for COSAction in 2018 after much research and reflection. I was initially very skeptical of the idea of an Article 5 Convention of states. Much of that trepidation was due to the kind of information being put forward by the proponents of this bill. However, as I did my own research and investigation into the truth about the process, I became convinced of its providence and efficacy. In a time of division like we haven't seen in this nation since the lead up to the civil war in 1860, there has never been more reason to use the part 2, or states, option of Article 5 than now. Considering the resolution this bill would rescind was passed overwhelmingly by the North Dakota Legislature in 2017, and upheld in the face of a 2021 effort to rescind, we should stay the course. If not, we could easily see our beloved Republic fall into another violent conflict to decide its future. The Founders gave us this diplomatic option to prevent that very thing from happening again.

I am now a Regional Captain for North Dakota Region 1 which encompasses the eastern half of North Dakota. I have been in contact with the citizens of this state in a unique and personal way as part of my duties with COSAction. I can attest to the fact there are a large number of citizens who are ready for the kind of debate and discussion an Article 5 Convention would generate. Having witnessed the anger and frustration in these citizens hearts, I hate to imagine what these good and faithful citizens would resort to if diplomatic options are removed from the table. So I rise today to urge you to recommend a "Do Not Pass" for SCR 4012. Thank you for your time and attention.

Dale W. Burke
Regional Captain
COSAction