

TESTIMONY OF FORMER U.S. SENATOR JIM DEMINT IN SUPPORT OF SR 133

PENNSYLVANIA SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 17, 2018

Dear Committee Members,

Thomas Jefferson warned us that the natural course of things is for government to advance and for liberty to recede. Government really is like gravity; it constantly pulls in more power and more money. This is the phenomenon we observe in Washington today, and unless we do something to counteract it, DC will continue to expand and take our freedoms away.

Having served six years in the U.S. House of Representatives, eight years in the U.S. Senate, and four years in a prominent conservative think tank, I can tell you without reservation: Washington will never fix itself. No matter whom we elect or which party is in power, Congress will continue to deficit-spend, regulations will continue to multiply, and the power of the states will continue to decline as that of Washington, D.C. continues to grow. Even President Trump cannot do enough to restore the proper limitations on the federal government.

Our Founders envisioned this day, and that is why they gave the states the right--the responsibility--to resolve this situation through Article V. Today, I consider it critical to the future of our country for you to use your authority to call a convention of the states to propose amendments that will limit the power and jurisdiction of Washington. Republicans, in particular, should unite behind this means of *using* the Constitution to restore the federal system created *by* the Constitution. I can assure you that Washington cannot do it, and they *will not* do it.

And so I am asking you, on behalf of thousands of grassroots supporters in your state, to set in motion the one constitutional process the Founders gave us that is capable of reinstating meaningful limitations on the power of DC—the convention of states process.

To those of you who are worried about the safety of this process, I ask you to consider the high bar of 38 states required for ratification of any proposed amendment. I remind you that the convention would have no greater power than that held by Congress every single day it sits in session--merely the power to *propose* amendments. And finally, I call upon you to weigh the consequences of the states' refusal to use this constitutional check on Washington. Article V provides the states with the most powerful of all the checks and balances designed to safeguard our Republic. I respectfully submit that it is time for you and your colleagues to *use* it to protect the future of America.



Jim DeMint