

State of South Dakota
House of Representatives

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PRESS RELEASE

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Resolution Calling for a Convention of States Introduced in South Dakota

Pierre, SD - Representative Isaac Latterell (R-Sioux Falls) has filed House Joint Resolution 1005, calling for an Article V convention of the States for the limited purpose of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution which would impose fiscal restraints on the Federal Government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the Federal Government, and limit the terms of office for Federal officials and members of Congress.

"I have always believed that the solutions to America's problems will come from the people, not from Washington," said Rep. Latterell. "Fortunately, the authors of the Constitution gave us the power to fix Washington without the approval of Congress or the President, who will never vote to limit their own power. I am excited to see that as so many South Dakotans rise up to join this effort, their optimism for America rises also, as we finally work together on a solution as big as the problem."

Senator Dan Lederman (R-Dakota Dunes), the primary Senate sponsor of the resolution, noted that it's far past time Congress got its fiscal house in order. "Federal spending is out of control, and Congress has proven time and again that they will not limit spending, balance our budget, or abide by the limits placed on them by our Constitution. The American public has grown weary of the constant brinksmanship that Washington engages in, shutting down government only to extend spending authority. It's is time for our federal government to live within their means."

Under Article V of the United States Constitution, states are given the power to call for a convention of states to discuss and propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution. If two-thirds of state legislatures submit applications on the same topic, a convention is called, but the scope is limited to proposing only those amendments allowed under the resolution topic. Additionally, none of the proposals are adopted or have any effect unless they are ratified by three-fourths of the states. This guarantees that only amendments that are within the limited scope and have the broad support of the people will ever be added to the Constitution.

With the introduction of HJR 1005, South Dakota joins several other states who have filed or will be filing a resolution on the same topic in the 2014 legislative session. Rep. Latterell believes that grassroots volunteers are the key to success and wants to connect with South Dakotans who are interested in helping. "This monumental but very achievable plan will require hundreds of thousands of Americans rallying together to push the process forward, demanding their state legislators call for a convention of states to return the power where it truly belongs--with the people. Visit www.conventionofstates.com to learn how you can get involved in this exciting effort."

One of the reasons this is gaining so much momentum here, says Rep. Latterell, is that South Dakotans have a strong belief in local control: "South Dakotans are passionate about self-governance, but are growing increasingly concerned that the federal government's continued overreach and insolvency are erasing our children's hope for a bright future. Using Article V, we will put the federal government back in its proper place, so we can focus on living our lives the South Dakota way."

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