

H.R. 5903, the Restoration of State Sovereignty Act

“Powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited to it by the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”
– Tenth Amendment, Constitution of the United States

Dear Colleague,

Never before has Congress spent so much money in so little time. The federal government has disregarded the Founder’s intention to preserve the rights of our States, and State liberties have been swallowed whole by the Washington bureaucracy. Please join me in reversing this attack on our Constitution by protecting the freedoms of individuals and states by cosponsoring H.R. 5903, the Restoration of State Sovereignty Act.

H.R. 5903 would empower States by giving them the opportunity to accept or reject federal grant money. In 2008, States received \$416.5 billion in federal grant money through various federal allocations. As a result, State legislatures were saddled with the pervasive strings attached to these allocations. Ironically, most of these federal allocations went to programs inherently the responsibility of the state. Federal grant outlays for 2009 were \$659.2 billion and at the end of the second quarter of 2010, Federal grant outlays are already \$473.6 billion. For this reason, State legislatures should consent to federal grant allocations, as well as the obligations attached, just like a patient consents to a medical procedure.

The Department of Education, for example, allocated over \$115.8 billion in grants to States in 2009. The requirements attached to these funds put Washington bureaucrats, rather than State and local school officials, in control of K-12 education policy. These obligations, which are mandated by Washington and imposed on school districts, create artificial barriers for how money can be spent to educate our youth.

Grant money rejected by State legislatures would be dedicated to paying off our outstanding national debt and deficit. President Obama has finally admitted that, “we are out of money now” and that, “we are operating in deep deficits”. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the Administration’s proposed budget boosts the deficit to a record level this year, \$1.5 trillion or 10.3% of GDP. This is the largest deficit as a share of the economy since World War II.

My hero, Thomas Jefferson said, "To take a single step beyond the boundaries thus specifically drawn around the powers of Congress, is to take possession of a boundless field of power, no longer susceptible to any definition." It is critical we protect our Founder’s intent for a limited government and empower States with the flexibility they need to best provide for their people.

To become a co-sponsor of H.R. 5903, please contact Blake Adami in Rep. John Culberson’s office at Blake.Adami@mail.house.gov, or at 5-2571.

Sincerely,

John Culberson
Member of Congress