

As Introduced

**131st General Assembly
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S. C. R. No. 15

Senators Obhof, Faber

**Cosponsors: Senators Beagle, Coley, Eklund, Gardner, Hite, Hughes, Jordan,
LaRose, Patton, Peterson, Seitz**

A C O N C U R R E N T R E S O L U T I O N

To reassert the principles of federalism found throughout 1
the Constitution of the United States of America and 2
embodied in the Tenth Amendment, to notify Congress to 3
limit and end certain mandates, and to insist that 4
federal legislation contravening the Tenth Amendment 5
be prohibited or repealed. 6

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, "It is incontestible that the Constitution 7
established a system of 'dual sovereignty,'" *Printz v. United* 8
States, 521 U.S. 898, 918 (1997); and 9

WHEREAS, The powers delegated to the federal government 10
"are few and defined" (Federalist No. 45) and "its jurisdiction 11
extends to certain enumerated objects only" (Federalist No. 39); 12
and 13

WHEREAS, The Constitution "leaves to the several States a 14
residuary and inviolable sovereignty" (Federalist No. 39) and 15
the powers retained by State governments are "numerous and 16
indefinite" (Federalist No. 45); and 17

WHEREAS, By dividing government "into distinct and separate 18

departments," allotting different powers and responsibilities to 19
each, the Constitution protects "the rights of the People" 20
(Federalist No. 51); and 21

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court, in *Printz v.* 22
United States, 521 U.S. 898 (1997), recognized that "This 23
separation of the two spheres is one of the Constitution's 24
structural protections of liberty. 'Just as the separation and 25
independence of the coordinate branches of the Federal 26
Government serve to prevent the accumulation of excessive power 27
in any one branch, a healthy balance of power between the States 28
and the Federal Government will reduce the risk of tyranny and 29
abuse from either front'" (521 U.S. at 921); and 30

WHEREAS, The Tenth Amendment to the United States 31
Constitution states, "The powers not delegated to the United 32
States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, 33
are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people"; and 34

WHEREAS, The Tenth Amendment defines the scope of federal 35
power as being that specifically granted to the federal 36
government by the Constitution; and 37

WHEREAS, The Ninth Amendment to the Constitution of the 38
United States states that, "The enumeration in the Constitution, 39
of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage 40
others retained by the people"; and 41

WHEREAS, We believe in the importance of all levels of 42
government working together to serve the citizens of our 43
country, by respecting the constitutional provisions that 44
properly delineate the authority of each respective level; and 45

WHEREAS, The Tenth Amendment assures that we, the people of 46
the United States and each sovereign State in the Union of 47
States, now have, and have always had, rights the federal 48
government may not usurp; and 49

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court held in *New York v. United States*, 505 U.S. 144 (1992), that Congress may not simply commandeer the legislative and regulatory processes of the States by compelling them to enact and enforce regulatory programs; and

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court held in *United States v. Lopez*, 514 U.S. 549 (1995) that the scope of the federal government's power "must be considered in light of our dual system of government and may not be extended so as to ... effectively obliterate the distinction between what is national and what is local..." (514 U.S. at 557); and

WHEREAS, Recent enactments by the federal government exceed the scope of the federal government's enumerated powers, and intrude on areas traditionally left to the States; and

WHEREAS, Today, in 2016, the States are often treated as agents of the federal government, in contravention of the principles outlined above; and

WHEREAS, Many federal laws directly contravene the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, A number of proposals by previous administrations, and legislation enacted during the present administration, may further violate the Tenth Amendment's restriction on the scope of federal power; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the State of Ohio hereby acknowledges and reaffirms its residuary and inviolable sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States over all powers not otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal government by the Constitution of the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution serves as notice to the federal government to end federal mandates that are beyond the

scope of its constitutionally delegated powers; and be it 81
further 82

RESOLVED, That compulsory federal legislation that directs 83
States to comply under threat of civil or criminal penalty or 84
sanction or that requires States to enact legislation or lose 85
federal funding be prohibited or repealed; and be it further 86

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 87
authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the 88
United States, the President Pro Tempore of the United States 89
Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of 90
Representatives, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and 91
the President of the Senate of each state's legislature, and 92
each member of the Ohio Congressional delegation. 93