

**Testimony of Mark W. Napier in Support of HJR 2**  
**Before the House Government Oversight Committee**

Dear Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humprey, and members of this Committee.

I am a recently retired attorney from Hamilton County, House District 26. I practiced law for 47 years. My experience included assistant county prosecuting attorney, criminal law defense, family law, and personal injury.

Over 250 years ago, a Scottish judge advocate and history professor at the University of Edinburgh named Alexander Fraser Tytler studied past civilizations. From his studies, he concluded why all past great civilizations had failed. The following quotation is attributed to him:

***“A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship.”***

America is heading down this same dangerous path to destruction unless we can adopt sensible federal fiscal policies and term limits for federal legislators. Let's face it. No member of Congress or the US Senate will ever vote for significant fiscal restraints or term limits. To do so, is political suicide. Americans like this Committee must carry the torch to put restraints on federal spending. A constitutional amendment to balance the annual federal budget is a good start.

Please vote to convene a U.S Constitution Article V Convention of States.