

**Eagle Forum and Andrew Schlafly
Oppose H.B. 369,
the so-called Compact for a Balanced Budget**

**Hearing before the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
May 24, 2016**

Chairman Brown and distinguished members of this Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony to completely oppose H.B. 369 and to dispel any false impressions that Eagle Forum or I somehow support the flawed approach embodied in H.B. 369. We do not support that bill for many good reasons.

For example, Article VII of H.B. 369 purports to establish “CONVENTION RULES” for the assembly to be convened under the Compact. But there is no way to prevent such a convention from declaring its own rules and how it will conduct its business and potentially usurp the Constitution.

Both Eagle Forum and I have repeatedly criticized this approach as well as attempts to convene a Constitutional Convention or anything similar. *Yet some of the promoters of this Compact have misled legislators in various States to think otherwise.* For example, at a legislative hearing in Ohio earlier this year a witness advocating for the Compact for a Balanced Budget publicly credited Eagle Forum for its (imaginary) assistance and specifically credited me by name for my alleged personal help. The witness created a false implication that I was somehow a fellow traveler in the Compact for America, or Compact for a Balanced Budget, movement. The witness stated he had used Eagle Forum’s “Twenty Questions” handout and had resolved all our concerns in the currently proposed Compact. He was most generous in his praise of me, leaving the obvious impression that I was in some manner a consultant and approving of the currently proposed Compact. *That is a false impression, as I have criticized the Compact for America or Compact for a Balanced Budget and continue to oppose it.*

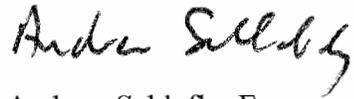
Neither Eagle Forum nor I support the Compact for a Balanced Budget or any Article V Constitutional Convention.

This is not the first time proponents of this Compact have used deceptive and misleading tactics. They have misled legislators in much the same way in other States in past years. At one point a Florida legislator told me that he had been led by a Compact for America supporter to believe that I support it, which is untrue.

I restate my strong opposition to all of these ConCon proposals, including this Compact for a Balanced Budget, and emphasize Eagle Forum’s opposition to it. The fact that promoters of this variant of a ConCon have desperately resorted to use of misleading statements is itself proof of how bankrupt their proposal is. Gambling is never a good way out of insolvency, yet these ConCon proposals are similar to playing the roulette wheel with the future of our Nation.

Our Constitution is not the problem, and changing it would make matters worse. The current Constitution gives Americans all the legal and political tools necessary to stop runaway spending by the federal government, without putting the text of the Constitution on a roulette wheel as H.B. 369 and similar proposals would do.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Schlafly". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andrew Schlafly, Esq.
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