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Testimony in Support of *H.J. 65 Resolution Memorializing Congress to Abide by the Tenth Amendment.*
GAE Public Hearing
March 17, 2010

Chairmen Slossberg and Spallone, Ranking Members McLachlan and Hetherington, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of *HJ 65, RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO ABIDE BY THE TENTH AMENDMENT.*

Over the past several decades, it has become evident that Washington is overstepping the boundaries intended to protect state and local governments from a powerful centralized government. Little by little, the federal government has expanded and has taken control over matters previously governed by the states. A perfect example is the federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation. Through this legislation, the federal government mandated items like annual testing in education, an area that has always been left to the states. Politicians should not be dictating curriculum to schools; local boards of education are far more qualified to make these decisions.

I imagine our Founding Fathers were able to foresee the possibility of such intrusions into state sovereignty, and kept this in mind when they rejected an all-powerful centralized federal government through the ratification of the Tenth Amendment. "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." And yet, the federal government has consistently acted beyond the scope of its enumerated Constitutional powers in what many consider an all-out assault on the Tenth Amendment. As a result, the federal government has dramatically increased in size and influence, and I believe, has become considerably out-of-touch with the people of this state, and the nation as whole.

Passage of HJ 65 will send a message to those in Washington that they are overreaching. We need to limit the size and scope of the federal government, and return the power back to the people.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak in favor of HJ 65. I look forward to working with the Committee on this legislation this session.