



**70th Annual Meeting
of the Midwestern Legislative Conference
of
The Council of State Governments**

July 12 – 15, 2015

Resolution on Federalism

- WHEREAS,** the Constitution of the United States delegates certain enumerated powers to the federal government and reserves all others, unless prohibited by it, to the states and to the people; and
- WHEREAS,** this principle of limited federal authority is the cornerstone of state-federal relations in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** vigilant protection of the appropriate role of states within the U.S. federal system is essential to the maintenance of a constructive, well-balanced partnership between state and federal authorities; and
- WHEREAS,** The Council of State Governments has long been a champion of state prerogatives and state authority under the Constitution; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) of The Council of State Governments does hereby affirm the primacy of state authority with respect to those powers not expressly delegated to the federal government; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC, while recognizing the important role of the federal government in protecting the basic rights of all our citizens, urges federal authorities to observe and respect the limits on federal power prescribed by the Constitution; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the MLC calls upon state and federal officials representing the eleven MLC states to collaborate in their efforts to protect the appropriate balance of powers between state and federal authorities under the Constitution; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate federal and state officials in the United States.

Adopted this 15th day of July, 2015 at the 70th MLC Annual Meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota