



# Support Kentucky NULLIFICATION Bills

## Support Kentucky Nullification Resolution SJR 19

Members of the Kentucky General Assembly are seeking to pass a resolution affirming “the sovereign right of Kentucky to nullify unconstitutional acts of the federal government.” ***It is imperative that the General Assembly enacts this bill, along with strong, substantive legislation that nullifies unconstitutional federal actions.***

Senate Joint Resolution 19 ([SJR 19](#)) is [sponsored](#) by Senators Steve Rawlings (R-Burlington) and Lindsey Tichenor (R-Smithfield). This resolution begins by expounding on a proper view of the Constitution and its limitations on government power, specifically via the horizontal (between the three branches of government) and vertical (the states vs. the federal government) separation of powers.

For example, the bill declares:

WHEREAS, this principle [the vertical separation of powers] has become increasingly disregarded in recent decades, as if the federal government were supreme in all areas and unlimited in its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, this shift nevertheless finds no support in the United States Constitution, the laws of the United States, or the Constitution of Kentucky, and is therefore an illegal usurpation of power and of the inalienable rights of the people; and

WHEREAS, any federal action that violates the separation of powers is void as the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land; and

...

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Commonwealth do not consent to any action by the executive or judicial branch that purports to enact law or cede authority or sovereignty to any global organization, including but not limited to the World Health Organization, United Nations, World Economic Forum, International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group, or any other international

# The John Birch Society

Author: [Peter Rykowski](#)

Date: January 10, 2025



organization of which the United States is a member; the facilitation and use of global digital passports or a central bank digital currency; or any rule, regulation, fee, tax, or mandate of any kind that any of these global organizations, or similar global organizations may try to implement or enforce on the citizens of this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution assures the people and the states that their respective rights and powers will be respected by the federal government, and the Kentucky Constitution gives the people of the Commonwealth the sovereign power to regulate the affairs of the state; and

WHEREAS, these sacred rights shall not be infringed upon by any action of the federal government purporting to wield any undue authority; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Resolution of 1799 established that when states determine a law is unconstitutional, nullification by a state is the proper remedy;

SJR 19 then declares:

The General Assembly further affirms the sovereign right of Kentucky to nullify unconstitutional acts of the federal government. ... State nullification of federal action may be accomplished by the enactment of a bill of nullification by the General Assembly.

SJR 19 is correct. [Article VI](#) of the U.S. Constitution states, “This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof ... shall be the supreme Law of the Land.” Article VI also declares that state legislators, executive officials, and judges “shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution.”

Additionally, the Constitution delegates only specific, enumerated powers to the federal government. The states, by contrast, retain the vast majority of powers, something James Madison affirms in [The Federalist, No. 45](#). This is further cemented by the [10th Amendment](#), which makes clear that all powers not granted by the Constitution to the federal government are reserved to the states and to the people.

Accordingly, any federal action that violates or contradicts the Constitution cannot be “made in Pursuance thereof” and, thus, is not “the supreme Law of the Land” — and [state officials are duty-bound to nullify](#) those actions.

In addition to passing SJR 19, the General Assembly should enact strong legislation nullifying unconstitutional federal actions — whether congressional laws, executive orders or regulations, or federal court rulings — and refuse to implement any federal edict without any basis in the Constitution. Nonetheless, passing SJR 19 would send a powerful message in favor of enforcing the U.S. Constitution.

**Urge your state representative and senator to support SJR 19 and every other attempt to properly enforce the Constitution and nullify federal overreach.**

Nullification: The Rightful Remedy