

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 617

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Sponsors: Representatives Speciale, Brody, Cleveland, and Pittman (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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April 10, 2013

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S RIGHT  
2 TO CLAIM SOVEREIGNTY OVER CERTAIN POWERS UNDER THE TENTH  
3 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

4 Whereas, the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads as  
5 follows: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it  
6 to the states, are reserved to the states, respectively, or to the people;" and

7 Whereas, the Tenth Amendment defines the total scope of federal power as being  
8 that specifically granted by the Constitution of the United States and no more; and

9 Whereas, the scope of power defined by the Tenth Amendment means that the  
10 federal government was created by the states specifically to be an agent of the states; and

11 Whereas, today, in 2013, the states are demonstrably treated as agents of the federal  
12 government; and

13 Whereas, many federal mandates are directly in violation of the Tenth Amendment  
14 to the Constitution of the United States; and

15 Whereas, Section 4 of Article IV of the Constitution of the United States says, "The  
16 United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican form of government," and  
17 the Ninth Amendment states that, "The enumeration in the constitution of certain rights, shall  
18 not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people;" and

19 Whereas, the United States Supreme Court ruled in New York v. United States, 112  
20 S. Ct. 2408 (1992), that Congress may not simply commandeer the legislative and regulatory  
21 processes of the states; and

22 Whereas, a number of proposals from previous administrations and some now  
23 pending from the present administration and from Congress may further violate the  
24 Constitution of the United States; Now, therefore,

25 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

26 **SECTION 1.** The North Carolina House of Representatives fully supports the  
27 Constitution of the United States and believes the State should have the right to claim  
28 sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States over all  
29 powers not otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal government or reserved to the  
30 people by the Constitution of the United States.

31 **SECTION 3.** The North Carolina House of Representatives urges the federal  
32 government, as the agent of the State, to cease and desist, effective immediately, mandates that  
33 are beyond the scope of any constitutionally delegated powers.

34 **SECTION 4.** The North Carolina House of Representatives further urges that  
35 compulsory federal legislation which directs states to comply under threat of civil or criminal



1 penalties or sanctions or requires states to pass legislation or lose federal funding be prohibited  
2 or repealed.

3       **SECTION 5.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution  
4 to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of  
5 the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the North Carolina  
6 Congressional Delegation.

7       **SECTION 6.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.