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## **McConnell proposes call for Constitutional Convention to address Illegal Immigration**

**Columbia** – President Pro Tempore Glenn McConnell announced his intention to file as soon as possible a joint resolution calling for a constitutional convention to address the nationwide problem of illegal immigration. He also asked the task force on illegal immigration chaired by Senator Ritchie of Spartanburg to consider this concept. A copy of the resolution is attached.

Senator McConnell stated “Unfortunately, the ability of the state to deal with the problem of illegal immigration is almost entirely taken away by the provisions of our Constitution that leave immigration law solely within the province of the federal government. However, Congress has refused or is incapable of acting, thereby leaving the states in the position of burning while Congress fiddles.”

The resolution proposed by Senator McConnell, if approved by two-thirds of the other states, would require Congress to call for a constitutional convention. The sole issue presented to the constitutional convention would be straightforward. States would be given the ability to give or deny benefits to illegal immigrants, as well as the ability to enforce federal immigration laws within their borders. The states would also be given the ability to apprehend and expel violators and would force the federal government to provide timely assistance with their expulsion. “In short,” Senator McConnell stated, “the constitutional amendment would say that if Congress continues to refuse to act, then states would have the ability to act in order to protect themselves and their pocketbooks.”

Finally, Senator McConnell stated, “While this course of action is unprecedented, I also believe that the danger facing our country is unprecedented. We need to act now. If this resolution is unsuccessful, at least we can say we tried and that we sounded a clarion call for action. I hope that Congress will choose to act expeditiously, but if it continues to be politics as usual in Washington, then this resolution would give the states the opportunity to look out for themselves.