

## Restoring Liberty through the States—and the People

Liberty has afforded all Americans the opportunity to live prosperous lives through hard work and civic cooperation. Unfortunately, the immense growth of the federal government has, in the words of Milton Friedman, made it more likely “that its actions will reflect special interests rather than the general interest.” Instead of government being the means for the preservation of Americans’ “Life, Liberty and ... pursuit of Happiness,” it has become the instrument through which others seek to appropriate their liberty and wealth.

The American people have made it clear that they are fed up with this federal assault on liberty. *Restoring Liberty through the States—and the People* is a road map for America rooted in the U.S. Constitution that re-centers federal governance on only constitutionally enumerated powers which very intentionally maximize liberty and prosperity by leaving all other governing authority with the states, or the people.

### Restore Prosperity for All Americans

- Repeal Obamacare and move to patient-centered health care managed through health savings accounts combined with state regulation of healthcare delivery with the goal of ending control of health care by government and big business.
- Empower states to opt out of Medicaid and CHIP and use existing federal funds to design and implement plans that provide quality health care for the poor.
- Move to state-based programs to alleviate poverty and foster economic opportunity, replacing TANF, SNAP, and other federal welfare programs that discourage work and trap people in a life-long cycle of poverty.
- Increase educational opportunity by eliminating federal intervention in higher and public education in the states and providing a model for education savings accounts for Washington, D.C. students.
- Break the crime and poverty cycle by eliminating federal intervention in state/local criminal justice policy, ending federal distribution of property confiscated through civil asset forfeitures, and repealing federal crimes that are properly left to the jurisdiction of the states.
- Allow states to promote better policies for families such as tailoring foster care to meet the needs of children by eliminating all restrictions associated with Federal Foster Care Program funding.

### Create an American Economic Revival through the States

- Restore true economic federalism by promoting innovation through state “laboratories of democracy.”
- End or significantly reduce federal funding to the states and local governments—and the taxes that support it. Where such funding still exists—including grant programs—eliminate all strings attached and ensure that funding to local governments is consistent with state law.
- Empower local and state governments to address our transportation infrastructure needs by ending federal involvement in surface transportation, including the elimination of the federal fuel tax.
- End the federal bureaucratic state by allowing congressional delegation of authority to federal agencies and preemption of state law only when specifically authorized in the constitution and explicitly provided by statute.
- Ensure that economic activity within states is regulated by the states by restoring the original, limited meaning of the Commerce Clause and eliminating most federal consumer regulation.

### Ensure Abundant Energy Supplies and a Healthy Environment

- Federal law should recognize that states are the level of government best suited to sustain a clean environment. Congress should ensure that states, not the EPA, are the foremost decision makers in implementing environmental law and should replace the Clean Power Plan and most other EPA regulations with cooperative efforts by the states.
- Enhance stewardship of endangered species by allowing states, individually and cooperatively, to manage recovery efforts using their local knowledge and expertise to encourage conservation instead of the current approach that discourages landowner cooperation.
- Increase American energy independence by allowing states to regulate energy exploration, transmission, and use.