

A conservative approach

Re "Our neocon nightmare," Opinion, Nov. 4

I have struggled to get past Cato Institute President Edward Crane's opening sentence, but I just can't. It isn't technically true that the founders envisioned a federal government "constitutionally limited" to defending our rights to life, liberty

and the pursuit of happiness.

No, if it's the founders' vision of the Constitution -- and not the Declaration of Independence -- that's of interest, read the preamble, which calls on government to "promote the general welfare." This, arguably, indicates an intent to enumerate not limited but very broad powers in the Constitution.

Nevertheless, I'm sure the founders also intended that those who represent us in government be rational and have common sense. Just in case reason was sometimes in short supply, they designed the Constitution's checks and balances to provide limits.

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