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**Sponsor Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 23**

**House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee**

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Chairman Roegner, Vice-Chairman Becker, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 23.

SCR 23 would reassert the principles of federalism embodied in the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and call on Congress to repeal any mandates or legislation that contravene those principles.

The purpose of this resolution is to emphasize the system of dual sovereignty designed by our Founders and enshrined in the Constitution. As explained in the Federalist Papers, the powers delegated to the federal government are “few and defined” (Federalist No. 45). The federal government’s jurisdiction “extends to certain enumerated objects only” (Federalist No. 39). The Tenth Amendment specifically provides that other powers “are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” Indeed, as the Federalist Papers further note, the powers retained by the States are “numerous and indefinite.” (Federalist No. 45)

The protection of individual liberty is central to this debate. Together with the separation of powers, federalism helps ensure that no one level or branch of government will accumulate too much power. As James Madison wrote in Federalist No. 51: “In the compound republic of America, the power surrendered by the people is first divided between two distinct governments, and then the portion allotted to each subdivided among distinct and separate departments. Hence a double security arises to the rights of the people.”

The federal government has often exceeded its role by reaching beyond its constitutionally-defined jurisdiction into areas that are properly regulated by the States. SCR 23 will address this issue by notifying Congress that the State of Ohio reaffirms the principle of dual sovereignty. This resolution urges the federal government to end federal mandates that are beyond the scope of its constitutionally delegated powers.



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I believe that the proper relationship between the States and the federal government is clearly outlined in the Constitution. SCR 23 simply reasserts these principles and urges our federal government to return to this shared balance of power.

It is to preserve these founding principles that I urge swift passage of SCR 23. A nearly identical Resolution (SCR 15) was introduced in the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, and passed the Senate on May 25, 2016.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today, I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.