



**State Representative Bill Patmon
Sponsor Testimony
HJR 2
March 7, 2017**

Hello Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present Sponsor Testimony on HJR 2, a resolution that will act as an application to the Congress of the United States for a Convention of States under Article V of the Constitution of the United States.

Article V of the U.S. Constitution describes the process whereby states may call a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution. In order for a Convention of States to be called at least two-thirds of all state legislatures must make applications on the same subject.

The debt that our nation has incurred is astounding---\$19 trillion and climbing. We are constantly reminded of Congress' inability to agree on a budget. If a Convention of States were to be called, a balanced budget amendment could be put forward for the states to discuss. After the states propose, debate, and vote upon the proposed amendments, they will be sent to the 50 states for ratification. Three-quarters of the states must agree for any of the proposed amendments to be ratified. We need to make the federal government more responsive to the people. Calling a Convention of States will demonstrate that the people will take action when necessary to steer our country back on the right course.

Again, thank you Chair Roegner and members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee.