

Written Testimony in Opposition to Ohio SJR1 (Convention of States)
March 22, 2017

Sen. Coley, Chair; Sen. Uecker, Vice Chair; Sen. Yuko, Ranking Minority Member; and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

My name is Judi Caler, and I am President of Citizens Against an Article V Convention. I appreciate your accepting my written testimony in opposition to SJR1 (HJR2).

Despite what you may hear from Article V proponents, an Article V convention *cannot be limited to one subject/s or amendment/s*. That's because Delegates to a convention would have more power than State Legislatures, Congress or the President. And therefore, they cannot be controlled by State Law or Delegate bills.

Delegates would be direct representatives of "We the People" and, as such, have the inherent right to *alter or abolish* our Form of Government, as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, paragraph 2. And we don't even know who those Delegates would be or how they would be selected.

Even if the convention **could** be limited, the subject matter of Convention of States' **SJR1 (HJR2)** --the power and jurisdiction of the federal government—is so broad, that **it encompasses the entire Constitution**; making the argument that an Article V convention cannot be *limited* beside the point.

In addition, amendments that COS claims they would like proposed at a convention would **expand** the federal government, rather than limit it. That is because our federal government is already limited by enumerated powers. Just one example is a *Balanced Budget Amendment* because it would "fundamentally transform our Constitution from one of enumerated powers to one of general and unlimited powers."

See [attached article](#).

“Reservations, understandings, and declarations” (*SJR1 / HJR2*, page 2, line 39 through page 4, line 96), as well as Delegate bills, are designed to give legislators a false sense of security and control over a process which would be totally out of their control--to get your YES vote!

Attached also is an article ([*Myth v. Fact*](#)) that explains why the *only* power guaranteed to State Legislators under Article V of the Constitution is the power to *ask Congress* to call a convention; period. After a convention is convened, it will be too late to stop it. Should a new Constitution emerge from such a convention, it would have its own mode of ratification.

We are dangerously close to a convention being called. Now is your opportunity to defend the Constitution you swore an oath to.

Please **VOTE NO** on **SJR1 (HJR2)**.

Thank you for your consideration.