

Testimony of Diana Telles in support of HJR No.1

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Kelly, and Members of the Committee:

I am from West Chester in Ohio House District 52. I've been a homeschooling mother for eight years with two children actively schooling, one attending nursing school, and an adult son recently married and graduated from college. We have proudly exemplified hard work and self-reliance at home, never indicating to our children to expect financial support from anywhere, including us in the long-term. We assisted in covering large portions of college tuition, warning the funds are not infinite. While we have enjoyed fulfilled lives, tuition funds my husband and I saved represent decades of new cars we did not purchase, entertainment we avoided, and extravagant vacations we did not take.

My daughter in her second year of a rigorous nursing school program, faces employment in a severely broken government-run healthcare system further desecrated by unconstitutional government mandates. My oldest, realizing a life-long dream of owning his own business, recently became a franchisee of a tree service company. He advances his station in life in lieu of a government-funded labor force uninspired to work, a political climate unfavorable to small business, and an economy riddled by inflation where citizens realize less disposable income. There was a time when young Americans entering the work force could at the very least count on a culture largely supportive of a free market.

Americans today must grapple head-on with socialism. We face endless devastation in the wake of nefarious big government activity. Education has failed, fallen to government control. We choke down increasingly strict federal monitoring of bank activity, vaccine mandates, a US Attorney General who threatens citizens and actually gets away with it, wide-open borders, coddled foreign enemies, bills looming in US Congress spending trillions of dollars while the president gaslights the misinformed public into believing there's no cost, and an inconceivable national debt north of \$28 trillion dollars.

Article V can restore state sovereignty, liberty, and self-governance. It can reestablish an economic climate conducive to a free market and capitalism. In every other possible way, we have trusted the writers of the Constitution. We must also trust in Article V as the means to insert liberty amendments to restore the Constitution. Our founders did not shy away from the concept of doing things differently or from accepting risk. The *states* created the Federal Government, not the other way around. Now it's your job to help us fix it using a Convention of States as our tool. I implore you to stand up for state sovereignty and for my hard-working American children entering the work force.

Without a Convention, this country will fall to the point where we no longer recognize it. It is falling. When you regretfully look back on the events that contributed to that downward spiral, at what exact point on the timeline is the threshold where you realize the states should have held a convention? I say it is now.

Please vote in favor of sending HJR-1 to the House for a vote. Thank you for your service to the great state of Ohio, and for this opportunity to address the committee.