

Testimony of Elizabeth Margolius in support of H.J.R. 1

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee--Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Convention of States. I am a homeschooling mom of 3 from Powell, Ohio, House District 67. Prior to staying home with my children, I was an apparel buyer for Fortune 500 companies in NYC and Boston.

Balance is a word used by the framers of our Constitution. Balance between three branches of government. Balance between state and federal government. Balance between people and government. Balance means to be in a state of equilibrium. Today, however, we live in a state of perpetual imbalance.

Take, for example, regulations. According to regulations.gov there are over 220 federal agencies and in 2019, those agencies passed almost 3,000 rules or regulations, while Congress passed 105 laws.* Federal regulations cost us almost \$2 trillion dollars annually and affect each of us. Employers pay almost \$10,000 per employee to comply with regulations. Regulatory costs at the state, local, and federal level add almost 30% to the cost of a new home. With each bill passed by Congress and each Executive Order cast, we continue to pile on more and more regulations. *

How do we restore the balance? Congress could restore balance, but try getting a majority of them to agree on anything, let alone diminishing the power of the federal government. How many years have we heard Congress discuss term limits? Heritage Foundation called for congressional term limits in an article written in 1994. Here we are in 2021 still talking about term limits. No one in a position of power ever wants to decrease that power voluntarily, so let's not hold our breath for Congress.

What about the judicial branch? The Supreme Court has no formal powers stated in the Constitution to enforce rulings. We rely solely on the President and Congress's willingness to obey the ruling. But what happens if one day, they don't? In 2021 the executive branch bypassed Congress and implemented a moratorium on evictions through the CDC. The Supreme Court struck down the CDC's moratorium on rent in June and the executive branch ignored the ruling, extending the moratorium. In August, the Supreme Court ruled again, and the executive branch reluctantly stepped aside. A narrow win for private property rights. What about next time?

What happens when the branches created to protect our freedoms begin to prey on our freedoms? What happens when we become the prey and our own government grows into a predator? The framers knew that this could one day happen and so they created Article V. Article V has the power to end federal usurpations and place constraints on an out-of-control Federal government. Article V is a reboot, a restoration back to balance and control given to the people and the states, not a central government.

I hope that you too will support giving power back to the people and yourselves as state legislators by passing H.J.R. 1 in this committee and sending it to the full House for a vote. Thank you all for your service to Ohio and for allowing me the opportunity to share with you my testimony.

Footnotes:

*[regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) - full list of agencies

*[forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com) - The 2020 Unconstitutionality Index: 28 Federal Rules and Regulations for Every Law Congress Passes

*[nam.org](https://www.nam.org) - The Cost of Federal Regulations

*Heritage Foundation - The Cost of Federal Regulation (via Office of Management and Budget) and Term Limits: The Only way to Clean Up Congress