

## Testimony of Susan Kahler in support of HJR No. 1

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

“What was to be a relatively innocuous federal government, operating from a defined enumeration of specific grants of power, has become an ever-present and unaccountable force. It is the nation’s largest creditor, debtor, lender, employer, consumer, contractor, grantor, property owner, tenant, insurer, healthcare provider, and pension guarantor. Moreover, with aggrandized police powers, what it does not control directly it bans or mandates by regulation.” - Mark R. Levin, *The Liberty Amendments: Restoring the American Republic*, 2013

We have witnessed non-stop spending, taxation, and borrowing from our children’s futures by both parties. Between 2010 and 2012, there were 69 bankruptcy filings of U.S. cities, towns, and counties<sup>1</sup>. Yet presidential candidates from both parties in 2012 rarely, if ever, mentioned the necessity for governments to exercise fiscal restraints like those required of families and small businesses. Fast forward to today, in which elected officials have easily and quickly transitioned to budgeting for trillions not billions, which replaced millions, almost overnight.

I am a law-abiding, lifelong Ohio resident, retired mom of two productive young adults, a 1979 graduate of Miami University’s business school, former small business operator, wife of a retired public school teacher, and a Convention of States volunteer. Hardly a domestic terrorist, yet apparently my beliefs about what I observe happening in the U.S. may get me tagged as such.

I’m concerned to see elected officials in many states and at every level let their citizens down. Congress passing laws they haven’t had time to read and that don’t apply to them. It’s becoming normalized for the executive branch to rule by executive order, to impose mandates, or to incentivize states with money to act as thug enforcers of illegal acts<sup>2</sup>.

Where am I going with this? Members of this Committee are not called on to solve every problem America faces. You are simply called on to be the voice of the people. With

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.governing.com/archive/municipal-cities-counties-bankruptcies-and-defaults.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/January-2022/AG-Yost-tells-U-S-Supreme-Court-OSHA-Can%E2%80%99t-Impose>

nearly 100,000 petition signers in Ohio, the average house district has over 1,000 supporters calling for a legal check on our runaway federal government. Our grassroots army across Ohio has volunteered their time on this effort to call an amendments convention, some for the entire 8+ years since the launch of the non-profit, non-partisan group, Convention of States. Our volunteers are counting on their House Reps to support them on this issue. I ask that you vote YES to pass HJR1 through this Committee. If not, you will be silencing Ohioans in all of the other 84 house districts NOT represented in this Committee. Please allow the conversations they're having with their own state legislators to continue. Every citizen in Ohio should be represented when the final floor vote is taken on HJR1 because this resolution has the power to determine the future of our representative republic. HJR1 offers the unique possibility to correct some of the previously mentioned abuses of an unaccountable federal government by focusing on one of the greatest checks of all: restoring the powers reserved for the states.

Provided for your reference are links below to the legal research and writings of Robert G. Natelson, widely acknowledged to be the country's leading active scholar on the Constitution's Article V amendment procedure. He researches independently and has been cited repeatedly at the U.S. Supreme Court, federal appeals courts, and the state supreme courts. The link includes comprehensive research into our country's rich history of multistate conventions: who, what, where, why, when, and how they were conducted, and what the results were. This thorough, time-tested research dates back earlier than 1776 and is provided to assuage fears regarding a meeting of commissioners from the 50 states to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

About Professor Natelson: <https://i2i.org/about/our-people/rob-natelson/>

State Initiation of Constitutional Amendments: A Guide for Lawyers and Legislative Drafters, Fourth Edition, Robert G. Natelson

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:e8f46c8b-a773-4701-ba72-6fb4b4469d30>