

## Testimony of Jarret Beck in support of HJR 1

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective as a proponent of House Joint Resolution 1 in the State and Local Government Committee. I am an advocate for grassroots support of the Article V Convention of States movement as a Regional Captain for the Convention of States Project-Ohio. Region 04 encompasses Senate Districts 3, 15, 16, 19, and 31. I am personally located in house district 71.

I, as former member of the United States Marine Corps, believe that using Article V of the United States Constitution to call for a convention of states to amend the Constitution, is the only way to save the Constitution in which I swore an oath to defend against all enemies foreign and domestic.

We, as liberty loving Americans, have tried election after election to send people to Washington that we thought would stop the growth of Federal government, the growth of its massive debt, and to protect and preserve our God-given, inalienable Rights. This strategy has not worked in part because of the rise of the executive branch bureaucracy. This is where most of the governing is done. It is done by unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats that work to increase their power because to do the opposite would undermine the necessity of their own jobs.

What is taking place in Washington is immoral and if it continues unchecked, our great nation and experiment in self-government will soon fail.

Since we have not been represented in Washington for far too long, we must now use our state representation to impose further limits on the Federal government as was intended by our Founding Fathers. Lest I remind you that the states came together to create the Federal government; in a similar manner, the states can come together to push back on it!

We have a serious problem and an Article V convention of states offers a solution to match the problem. We will enact long lasting solutions to the problems of our national debt and the out of control power that Federal government has bestowed upon itself and is wielded to intrude in every aspect of our lives. These solutions cannot be changed with every passing election, as is the case now where an executive order by a President can be nullified by the next President's executive order.

I believe that it is time to live up to the legacy of our Founding generation—the legacy of great sacrifice for the cause of liberty. We must now do things that we never thought we would have to. We must now be willing to forgo our comfortability because all our lives will soon become unbearably uncomfortable if we continue sitting by as our nation decays. Our Founding Fathers pledged to sacrifice their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. We must be willing to do the same.

The values enshrined in our great founding documents are worthy of being saved. It is on me and you to save them and pass them on to the next generations. Our ability to do that is under threat every day from our domestic enemies. That is why I urge you to do the moral and courageous act of voting in favor of House Joint Resolution 1 so that Ohio can join the numerous other states in the effort to save our great nation!

Thank you for your service to your fellow Ohioans.

-Jarret Beck