

Testimony of Patti Buxton in Support of HJR No1

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking member Kelly and the State and Local Government Committee. It is an honor to be here today.

I am Ohio born and raised and currently live in Toledo in House District 46. Over the years before and then after my three children were older, I worked in banking, as a Consumer Credit counselor, and I was a small business owner. The most difficult job and the most rewarding was raising my three children. Now I have five grandchildren. Being a grandmother is pure joy. My children, grandchildren, and the possibility of losing our liberties and so much more are the reasons I became an active volunteer with the Convention of States seven years ago.

My remarks today are centered around my twin grandchildren, Stella and Quentin. This past August they started their educational journey. We have pictures of each of them standing on their front porch holding a sign that said, "My First Day of First Grade." And there is a video of them boarding the school bus and waving goodbye to Mom. My daughter keeps me up to date on how well they are doing academically. But Stella and Quentin give me the real news about how well first grade is going. Stella likes art class best and Quentin's favorite class is gym. Sounds perfect to me.

It didn't take long before my thoughts turned to the fact that Standardized Test scores of US students have been dropping for about 50 years. In 1860 the Department of Education was established with four employees and a budget of \$15,000. How did that happen? A department of Education is not enumerated as an authority of the federal government in the Constitution. But by 1965, there were 2100 employees with a \$15 Billion

annual budget. In 2010 the Department of Education had 4300 employees and the budget was \$60 Billion. For fiscal year 2021, the President requested \$66.6 Billion with a final enactment of \$73.5 Billion. And finally for 2022, the President requested \$102.8 Billion. We will learn what amount was eventually enacted and it is estimated there will be 5000 employees.

Although the Federal Department of Education is not allowed to require educational programs, that did not stop it from requiring Common Core math from being taught in all public schools. And that is where Critical Race Theory came from as well. This federal department is screaming for common sense changes. A Convention of the States could propose an amendment to return all educational decisions to the states where they belong. I urge you to pass HJR1.

Thank you, your service to the people of Ohio is necessary.