

Testimony of Kenneth A Eppich in Support of Ohio House Resolution HJR No. 1

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

My Name is Ken Eppich. My wife and I have been 51-year residents of House District 65. The Honorable Jean Schmidt is our Representative. I hold a degree in Journalism from Ohio University and have spent 25 years as head of marketing for major banks in Cincinnati and Dayton Ohio. For the past six years, I have held volunteer positions in media relations and state-wide communications for the Ohio Project of the Convention of States.

I present this testimony:

1. To briefly review our resolution
2. To update all of you on the progress of the Ohio Project & Convention of States Nationally
3. To explain why the Convention of States is the only non-partisan national organization poised to take on Congress and our federal government.

We are asking you to consider a resolution that would allow the State of Ohio to participate in an Article V Convention of States. An Article V convention can only propose amendments. The three topics of our Resolution can be the only ones discussed at the Convention.

The Convention of States Resolution

Those topics are:

1. Placing fiscal restraints on the spending of Congress.
2. Restricting the power, scope, and jurisdiction of the federal government by restoring the balance of power between the states and federal agencies.
3. Establishing term limits for federal officials such as members of Congress, appointed federal judges, including Supreme Court Justices and the more than 4,000 federal agency managers.

For clarification, in 2013, the Ohio Legislature approved Ohio joining an Article V. Convention dealing with a single topic, a balanced budget.

Current Convention of States Progress Nationally & Ohio

Nationally:

- Supporters: Over 5.1 million (includes individuals and organizations such as the Veterans Coalition for Convention of States, etc.)
- Petition Signers: Over 2.2 million

Ohio:

- Volunteers – Over 8,200*
 - Petition Signers – Over 95,000*
- *Our state numbers are net figures with no duplication.
Ohio ranks fourth of all 50 states in number of petition signers.

Reasons why the Convention of States is the only national organization ready to take on a run-a-way Congress

1. We are non-partisan and non-profit
2. We have organized projects in all 50 states
3. We already have an agenda; our three-topic Resolution
4. We have a way to accomplish it. We are part of Article V of the United States Constitution

Note: Over the years, Congress has used Article V to propose 33 amendments; 27 were ratified by at least 38 (three quarters) of the states.

Conclusion:

Our solution is timely and needed considering the current circumstances and over-reach of our federal government. In that regard, we are experiencing massive response from American citizens. For example, during a two-day period in last October, our Ohio petition signer numbers increased by more than 3,000. In fact, all 50 state projects reported strong petition signer growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration
Respectively submitted,

Kenneth A. Eppich