

Testimony of Ali Van Loon in support of HJR1

Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chair John, Ranking member Kelly; Thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective as a proponent of HJR1 in the State and Local Government Committee.

I am a young professional living in Columbus. Originally from out of state, I chose to make Ohio my home after graduating from the University of Dayton in 2014 because I believe that Ohioans share my values for faith and freedom. Still, those values are under attack by our federal government today more than ever before.

I know that I am not alone in this thinking. In fact, most can agree on diagnosing the problem. 75% of Americans are concerned with the federal debt levels¹ and over half agree that the government has too much power.² While each American household is currently burdened with almost \$900,000 in federal debt,³ only 13% of people have any level of confidence in Congress. Americans have lost faith in our institutions, and continue to lose hope for the future with optimism for the future dropping nearly 20 points this year alone.⁴

Though the current picture is grim, there is hope. You are currently faced with a once in a generation opportunity to defend liberty. Supporting an Article V Convention of States is the best chance we have to solve these issues—to reign in runaway regulation, disastrous spending, and ever-increasing federal leviathan that are restricting the lives of everyday Americans.

I know that many of you fear that such a convention could also get out of control and potentially make things worse. But of the fifteen states that have already passed the Convention of States bill, seven of them have added “faithful delegate” clauses. These restrictions not only nullify votes cast by the delegates outside the scope of the resolution, but also prescribe felony charges for the offenders. I know that HJR1 proponents would endorse a similar addendum to the bill here in Ohio.

Our system of government was never meant to work this way. Checks and balances limit power—particularly centralized, federal power—and are what protect our rights as Americans. That is why the framers put this protection in place, even before ratifying the Bill of Rights. It is now time for the States to check the federal government from trampling on our liberty. Please stand up for Ohio and vote to move HRJ1 to the house floor. Thank you for your consideration.

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¹ [Three in four Americans feel that people should worry about the national debt | Ipsos](#)

² [Government | Gallup Historical Trends](#)

³ <https://www.justfacts.com/nationaldebt.asp>

⁴ <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/americans-optimism-countrys-direction-year-drops-20-points/story?id=79036435>