

## Todd Stewart Proponent Testimony for HJR1

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of House Joint Resolution 1, which would submit Ohio's demand for Congress to call a Convention of States under Article V of the United States Constitution. Early in my career, I was a Legislative Service Commission Intern (now known as the LSC Fellowship Program) and Legislative Aide for the House Republican Caucus. In my short time serving the General Assembly, I saw firsthand the encroachment of the federal government onto Ohio. Even back then in the mid-1990s, unfunded mandates were a severe strain on the state budget. I can only imagine how much is forced upon Ohio today.

Today, I am an attorney and a resident of Delaware County. In my studies, I developed a special affinity for the U.S. Constitution. But throughout my professional life I have watched the federal government expand its reach into our daily lives and into our wallets. The federal government operates far beyond the powers delegated to it by the states under the Constitution. And the exponentially growing federal debt will cripple our children and grandchildren. Ohio and many other states are examples of how a government can successfully serve its people within the constraints of a constitution, with a balanced budget requirement, and with term limits.

As a final note, I am sure you are aware that it is critical to pass the resolution using language matching that of other states. Using the language of HJR1 will ensure that a convention will be scoped to limit the powers of the federal government. Any attempts to expand federal power will be out of order as contravening the resolutions of the states that called the convention. This will alleviate any concerns of a "runaway convention."

It is time for Ohio to do its part to re-balance this country's great federal system. Please approve HJR1 and move it to full consideration by the House.

Thank you.

Todd Stewart

Delaware County