

## Testimony of Statira Petersen in support of HJR No. 1

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

I am writing you today as a concerned citizen from Tipp City, OH House District 80. Since 1998, I have personally experienced how important patient autonomy is as an ethical freedom of choice. I will forever be in a wheelchair because of a rare medical risk that occurred when I choose to do a medical procedure. In 2021, Patient Autonomy and personal freedom are being threatened by mandates and lockdowns. This massive government overreach I never imagined seeing this in my lifetime. An individual shouldn't have to choose between their livelihood or potentially losing their life by being subjected to a medical procedure.

Historically this is not the first-time government overreach has happened. In 2001, after the planes hit the twin towers, the nation gave up more freedom within the Patriot Act. We permitted the government to have more control of our freedoms because of fear.

When does this government overreach end?

The United States is losing sight of its virtue and with that the republic for which it stands. Fear is taking virtue's place for an illusion of safety and a reality of tyranny. We have a government for the people, not an aristocracy for the elite. We have a government by the people, not for the self-claimed monarchy. It is far past time we realized this fact.

We as a country must get back to key concepts: (1) Fiscal Responsibility. We need to stop spending more than we make as a nation. (2) Term limits for those who represent the people. No more career politicians. Even in the state of Ohio we already have a provision for term limits in the state constitution but because of a supreme court ruling that provision cannot be executed as the Ohio people desire. (3) Eliminate government overreach.

The founding fathers provided a way to do the above, Article V of the constitution. It is far past time we check and balance a system that has gone far to long unchecked. It is time we re-establish virtue in our system rather than indulge in fear. It is time that we build the America we were promised, not the tyranny we were warned about.

I implore you all to move forward and pass HJR no 1, the resolution for a Convention of States. Thank you for your service to citizens of Ohio and for consideration of this resolution.

Statira A Petersen