

Testimony of Michael Keller in support of HJR No. 1

To the House S&LG Committee

I am a school bus driver, and my wife is an elementary principal. We live in Centerville OH with our two adopted children ages 13 and 10. I am also a district captain in OH 42 for Convention of States.

Our framers were very wise. They recognized that any government body of flawed human beings can become self-absorbed and corrupted. It is this very moment in history that the framers anticipated the people would need a way to bypass congress and take up issues such as term limits, fiscal responsibility or limits to the power and scope of the federal government.

Our national debt limit currently at 28.5 trillion exemplifies the scope of the problem we face. This debt has grown by 18 trillion in the last 13 years, even though we are already spending over 3 trillion in collected tax revenue each year. Congress typically has 48 hours to consider and vote on thousands of pages of legislation and billions in spending. We have failed to recognize that the needs and wants of individuals are unlimited and like gravity, the laws of economics are just as predictable and unavoidable. The problem as I see it is that we are being governed from Washington DC by a relatively small group of academic elites, millionaire and billionaire industry oligarchs and media propagandists, all married to a dogmatic cause, an Americanized form of Marxism. When you are married to a dogmatic cause you become unaffected by the logical consequences of your policies like inflation, supply chain interruptions, unreliable sources of energy, lost jobs, and lost liberty.

The question is how to we get the federal government to listen and change course. I am convinced that in a country of competing and diametrically opposed political philosophies, the only civil and constitutional avenue we have left is an article V Convention of the states. I have no illusions that it is a heavy lift to get 34 state legislatures to agree to a meeting, agree on amendment language and then get 38 states to ratify that language. I understand that 13 states can scuttle the hopes of as many as 37 other state legislatures and their citizens, but this is a process, and we must try. You have a duty to try. You have the power to try. This state legislature has more power than the federal government because you have under article V the power to call a meeting, to propose and amendment, and to ratify that same amendment.

It is in engaging in the article V process that we will achieve three things. First, we will get the attention of our fellow citizens who will become engaged in the political process. Second, we will get the attention of congress and the media, that Americans are serious about liberty and self-government. Third we may be able to amend the constitution or move congress to change course and save this republic for future generations.

Thank You.