

Testimony of David & Sherrill Raudebush in support of HJR No.1

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

I would to thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony for your consideration:

To me, our federal government is a necessary entity that should be limited in scope to that which is absolutely essential to the nation as a whole, and also limited in power sufficient to defend us from enemies abroad, and protect individual citizens from force and fraud at home.

It is incumbent upon its citizens to guard the use of government to encroach on their hard-won freedoms. Each generation must work, because American Freedom, like any home, demands constant attention to maintain it in good working order.

Since its founding, the federal government has gone far afield in expanding its areas of involvement into its citizens' lives, growing its bureaucracies, and incurring national debt and deficits, at alarming rates. It is all too common to hear of members of Congress retiring after decades of service. Do such long tenures make them more attuned to the needs of and service to their constituents and the national interest, or their personal political careers?

So, where to begin? With the foundation of our American home, the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Constitution laid out, in writing, the contract between the people, as represented by their states, and the federal government which they brought into existence. This document laid out the powers and constraints upon the federal government. The federal government has far exceeded its constraints and expanded its powers at the expense of both the states and the people.

The solution?

The calling of a Convention of the States, by the states themselves, as outlined in Article V of the Constitution. Proceeding carefully, only three such subjects are in need of immediate attention:

1. Impose fiscal restraint on the federal government
2. Limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government
3. Impose term limits on federal officials, including members of Congress

I would urge you, as an Ohio legislator, to help to restore our Constitutional form of government to that which would foster the greatest security to its citizens in their lives and property by supporting the call for such a convention.

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