

## Testimony of Amanda Wilson in support of HJR No.1

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

I am a lifelong resident of the state of Ohio and live in Columbus, House District 25. Over the past two years, our country and its citizens have suffered an immeasurable amount of tragedy. When COVID-19 exploded across the world, life came to a screeching halt. Small businesses were shut down, everyone was required to wear face masks and stay six feet away from each other. Churches were forced to close but liquor stores were allowed to remain open. People lost their jobs-many lost businesses that took a lifetime to build. Our freedoms were eroding right before our very eyes.

Following the George Floyd incident, within a few days, I watched in anger and horror the streets of Columbus, Ohio (not to mention the rest of our country) being ravaged & destroyed. For all intents and purposes, the lack of support and respect for law enforcement disappeared before my very eyes. It was at this time that I experienced my “ah-ha” moment. Nothing was making sense, and I knew I wasn’t the only person shocked and disgusted at what was happening to our country. It was being destroyed from within, and I just couldn’t take it anymore. It was time for me to do something. I wasn’t sure exactly what to do, but I knew I just HAD to do something.

I stumbled across The Convention of States on social media. It started by simply signing the petition, but my heart told me that was just not enough. I then became a District Captain with the Convention of States in July 2020, and the more I became involved, I discovered the desperate need to call a convention. Our Founding Fathers were brilliant-they were ahead of their time, to put it mildly, so they wrote into our Constitution Article V. This was the people’s saving grace. We can no longer permit the Executive branch of government to erode our freedoms and display an arrogant disregard of our constitutional rights. The rights belong to the individual states and to the people-not the Federal government.

I implore this committee to vote yes on HJR1. We are in unprecedented times. Time to put politics aside. I am sure most, if not all of you became politicians due to the love of your country. Now is the time to act! Think of your children and grandchildren. Voting yes in favor of this resolution can become part of your legacy-make it happen!

Thank you for your time and may God bless you and this country!

Amanda Wilson