

Testimony of Christine Burge in support of HJR No.1

House S&LG Committee

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

I am a retired banker, commercial insurance provider and mother-Grammy in Fairfield, House District 51.

My friends, neighbors and I value our citizenship in Ohio and the USA! When we have a concern, we discuss, listen and work to legally change it. As a young mother in 1978, I was concerned about the *high taxes and higher spending of Congress*, digging us into ever more debt. Just like my family budget, many states restrain their budgets, even preparing for a tough year with a “rainy day fund”. At our founding, the States created the Federal Government, not the other way around. Why don’t the Feds limit their spending for a healthy country? *Will Congress ever limit themselves?* How does the Constitution say to change that?

As the years went on, the national debt grew and my family of 6 energetic sons ate more. Sports, shoes, books, college.... Ah, Article V, Balanced Budget Amendment! But the BBA application wording was different in various states. Some states, including Ohio in 2014, passed the BBA resolution. But Constitutional experts wondered, what if Congress balanced the budget without limiting spending, by just taxing more? Emergency? Define “Emergency”. According to who? Several of the States rescinded their BBA applications. More needed than just a balanced budget. *Limiting spending! Unelected staff overreach! Judicial overreach! Term Limits!*

Then in 2014, I learned of another initiative, **Article V: Convention of States**. Let the States have a convention – a meeting – to discuss wording for several possible amendments. Give them boundaries to discuss details. Runaway! Who is Runaway? Congress who has been there too long! Too far from the people they represent. Runaway unelected Bureaucrats, runaway departments! My family in IN, OK, FL passed the COS Resolution. I’m not a Constitutional expert! But I have read a lot from those who are experts and strongly promote COS Resolution: **Mark Levin**, president of Landmark Legal Foundation and former Chief of Staff for Attorney General Edwin Meese; **Michael Farris**, committee that drafted Religious Freedom Restoration Act – RFRA, CEO and general counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom; **Rob Natelson**, nationally known Constitutional scholar, who US Supreme Court Justices have relied on explicitly in seven recent SCOTUS cases. Some say Antonin Scalia opposed using Article V for COS. Check out a lengthy 1979 debate with Paul Bator, Walter Berns, Gerald Gunther on the COS website. I want my sons and grandchildren to have a sound future! COS is the best path!

Please support HJR 1 and pass it on to the House for a full vote.

Thank you for your service to Ohio and for providing me the opportunity for testimony.

Christine Burge