

**Testimony of Aaron Butler in support of HJR No. 1**  
**House State and Local Committee**

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

I am a United States Marine Corps veteran, where I served in a combat arena during Operation Enduring Freedom. I have been a permanent resident of Ohio for 40 years, where I have a wife and three kids, and was a public servant of Ohio under the Ohio Department of Transportation for 12 years. Ohio is now where I am in the full-time pursuit of a bachelor's degree in political science.

The federal government's spending seems out of control. For example, multiple news outlets report that the war in Afghanistan, which started in 2001, cost taxpayers anywhere between 2 trillion to upwards of nearly 9 trillion dollars. In 2021, twenty years later, the federal government spent trillions of dollars on a war with terrorism. However, if 2 to 9 trillion dollars was spent over 20 years fighting an overseas war, how can 1 trillion dollars be spent in 2 to 5 years on domestic infrastructure (H.R. 3684, 117<sup>th</sup> Congress)? Is federal government spending out of control?

Recently, businesses in our city have posted signs or made it known that they are understaffed. Is it reasonable to conclude that these businesses are understaffed because the federal government was paying people to stay home on unemployment? Is it fair to figure that they are understaffed because the population has been struck with unnecessary fear from a purported pandemic? The alleged pandemic certainly is a cause for understaffed businesses and should be considered a common denominator with understaffed businesses, which one can summarize both as government overreach. Therefore, We The People appreciate the security a federal government brings but not at the expense of personal freedoms that mask mandating and the welfare state are costing. It is up to the individual United States to ensure that the federal government does not overstep its constitutional boundaries.

Although your duties as government officials are not easy and the facts I present have ambiguity, I trust that, at minimum, you understand we, as Ohioans, want to be respectable citizens. Furthermore, we hope you know that we do not expect perfection from our leaders, but we depend on you to be moral and upright. In his farewell address, our 1<sup>st</sup> President, George Washington, said, "Of all the dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports." Religion and morality are how, We The People (including elected officials) conclude that fiscal irresponsibility and government overreach are even a thing, let alone dangerous, when left unchecked. We The People should know, especially Ohioans, that, With God, All Things Are Possible. If not, then why is it our state motto? Therefore, let's restrain our federal government to an appropriate measure.

Please support HJR 1 and pass it on to the House for a full vote and, as always, thank you for serving the great state of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Aaron Butler

USMC Veteran, Operation Enduring Freedom