

## **Testimony of Katherine Clark in support of HJR No.1**

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

My husband and I are small business owners in Bowling Green, in Ohio House District 3, employing around 35 people. I want to share with you one of several reasons we support a Convention of States to rein in the Federal Government's overreach.

Up to 45% of our business comes from government contractors like Lockheed Martin, United Launch, and NASA. While the vaccine mandate issued by President Biden specifies companies over 100 people must be vaccinated there is a flow-through provision that requires their suppliers to also be vaccinated, no matter how few employees those suppliers have.

We have had to employ legal counsel and accountants to determine what our options are and the impact the mandate would have. As an aside, our accounting firm, William Vaughan, in Maumee, Ohio, said many of their other clients have contacted them for the same reason.

We have found that if we are required to enforce a vaccine mandate, we estimate we would lose up to 30% of our employees. This reduced capacity would inhibit our ability to satisfy all our customers and prevent us from accepting large contracts, thereby diminishing a competitive advantage.

If we do not enforce a vaccine mandate, we will lose 45% of our US business, preventing us from meeting existing financial obligations. In either of these scenarios we are forced to close our US facility, ending a 40 year old business here.

Even if the mandate comes to nothing the money spent on the lawyers and accountants, as well as the time spent on phone calls and in meetings are not commodities in large supply at this time considering this recent economic downturn.

I ask you to please support HJR 1 and pass it onto the House for a full vote. An Article V Convention of States is our constitutional provision to return federalism where most of our governance needs to occur- right here at the state and local level. We are, after all, sovereign States united by a Constitutional agreement.

Thank you for your service to Ohio and thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify.