

Barbara Richey  
January 7, 2022

Testimony of Barbara Richey in support of H.J.R. No.1

Dear Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, and Ranking Member Kelly,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts as a proponent of HJR in the State and Local Government Committee.

I have recently retired from teaching to watch my first grandchild. I love this country and the freedoms we have in America! I want so much for my grandchildren to have the great opportunities that this country/republic affords. I have always believed America is the greatest place in the world. I am however increasingly concerned about the corruption and control that I am witnessing in our federal government. I feel the federal government must be reigned in for Americans to retain these freedoms! I feel that we must participate in the process of Convention of States provided for us in our constitution to save America for our children and grandchildren. I know that sounds extreme but I firmly believe if we do not step in and make changes soon we could lose our country to the radicals and tyrants in Washington. Our freedoms are fragile and little by little will be taken from us if we are not vigilant. It is frightening to think our children may not have the freedoms we have enjoyed in our lifetime.

Spending by our federal government, and mostly endorsed by our congress, is out of control! Stimulus checks, child tax credits, extended unemployment benefits, and student loan debt suspended - the trillions of dollars we have spent this year alone will cripple our economy and pass huge debt on to our children and grandchildren. I can remember a time when balancing the budget was a priority. Instead congress bypasses and changes rules so they can continually raise the debt limit and spend without limit. You don't have to be an economics major to figure out that this spending is causing massive inflation and impacting my way of life and that of my children and my grandchildren. Our children will have to deal with the mess that we are creating today.

I remember a time where America produced its own goods and when we were leaders in innovation and manufacturing. I remember when people were proud of America and proud to be an American. I haven't heard recently from our leaders that America is a great place - instead the leaders in our government seem to be embarrassed about our great country and want to apologize for our citizens. It seems that illegal aliens are reaping the benefits of our hard work in front of our own citizens. How can our children know how good our freedoms are and be proud of our country when our leaders don't recognize the greatness of our republic? I do think that power corrupts and that is part of our problem in America. Too many in Congress have been there so long they cannot represent the common person. Too many in Congress have never produced anything that contributes to the good life in America. They have spent their entire life in Congress living the high life. Maybe it is time to get serious about term limits

and put “we the people” back in power. The control from Washington is real and is choking our freedoms.

The government wants to control our healthcare. I remember a time where you didn't have to wait 3 months to see a specialist. I remember a time when you and your doctor could discuss your healthcare without the government stepping in. My sister-in-law just passed away from Covid. She had gone to the doctor for antiviral medicines, but was denied the opportunity to get therapeutics for her disease. She was hospitalized, got progressively worse and didn't make it in the end. My brother faces the rest of his life alone because of the politics and government control involved with this pandemic. My niece's husband could also have used therapeutics to aide in his fight against Covid. He is now paralyzed and in a wheelchair. His wife faces a future of taking care of him and their two children. Why is it that our government feels they must control the distribution of medication in America? When did this become their responsibility? When did the government ever take control over anything and make our lives better? Our founders never envisioned the government having so much power. Now we see mandates from the government to require vaccines in as many businesses as possible. Our government should not have the power to force Americans to either chose vaccines or lose their jobs. We are losing critical health care workers, highly skilled people in our workforce, military members that we have paid a lot of money to train, and many critical people in our workforce because our government wants to hold power over “we the people”. I have a son who is in the age range where it is more dangerous to take the vaccine than to get Covid. He has chosen not to take the vaccine. Yet he lives in fear that he will lose his job because our government wants to control his medical decisions. I see the government trying to portray anyone who has chosen to not take the vaccines as the enemy and I worry for my son. The time has come for us to have a convention to discuss how we can give the power back to “we the people” as our founders intended. The government should be working for us not controlling our every move.

Our country has a huge problem right now with an open southern border. This is costing our country in so many ways - from drug cartels and drugs coming into our country to human trafficking to rising crime and most likely terrorism. Our government is supposed to be protecting its citizens. With the two million or so illegal aliens entering our country this year alone we will suffer consequences for years. Our government is not working for the people - at least not for our American citizens. I think the people crossing the border feel like they have won the lottery. People who most likely are used to salaries of a few dollars a day are handed a stimulus check, a free airline or bus ticket to anywhere in the United States, and then receive checks for each of their children monthly! Who knows the amount of taxpayer money we will spend to house, feed and educate these illegal aliens. Free Healthcare for these 2 million or so non-working aliens will put a great burden on Americans. Our federal government is not serving us well! When did it become our government's job to freely hand out our tax dollars to people who are breaking our laws and entering our country illegally? For that matter, when did it become their responsibility to hand out money for each child in America whether the parents need it or not? I am watching our neighbor sit on his front porch 10 months out of each year collecting unemployment though he is perfectly able to work. And now with the child tax credits he magically has a brand new 2021 truck! So much of this money is not going to children in

America!! Our city does have a big problem with drugs. I can only imagine a lot of our taxpayer money is going toward alcohol, drugs and cigarettes for the parents. As a teacher I watched several students trying to make sense of their parents' death because of an overdose. How can we not work to prevent the problems of drugs in our society? It is in our best interest to have a discussion about how "we the people" can take back our country. Our children and grandchildren are counting on us! Throwing money to parents and pretending it is saving the children is not not going to save our country!

Lastly, many in our federal government are trying to federalize our elections. "We the people" want to have a say and to be heard with our votes. We do not want the federal government controlling this process. The founders did not mean for our federal government to control our elections. I do not believe that illegal aliens should be voting anywhere in America! I believe in requiring ID to prove you are a citizen in order to have the privilege of voting! It is imperative to maintain our Republic.

The one way the constitution allows for us to give the power back to the people is the Convention of States. We must act now to give ourselves, our children and our grandchildren the opportunities that our constitution provides. I would love to see our freedoms restored and our children proud to be Americans! Please allow the voices of our country to be heard by supporting H.J.R. No 1.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important legislation. Thank you for your service to me and the citizens of Ohio.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Richey