

To: Rep. Wiggam, Chair; Rep. John, Vice Chair

Rep. Kelly, Ranking Member and members of the State and Local Government Committee:

I am a member of the Warren County Republican Party Executive Committee and I am contacting you to encourage you to vote "NO" on HJR 1.

As I thought of how I wanted to address this letter, I realized I had a relatively short space to address the many dangers and fallacies of the claims made about so-called "convention of states" advocates. Many of us oppose such a "convention" and can and have shared convincing documented reasons. So, I decided to just share with you my heartfelt concern based on the uselessness of proposing and promoting a national convention for the purposes of making amendments. Basically, the Amendments often touted by the COS Lobby are already addressed in our existing Constitution, but the problem is our Constitution is ignored especially when the designs of politicians and political parties and various lobbyist groups are pushing their agenda.

"There are so many issues (violation of our borders, inflation, Covid, upcoming elections, immigration, racial unrest, the debt ceiling, etc.) going on in our country right now and these problems have caused great division and anger among our people even though these issues can be addressed and even solved by applying our existing Supreme Law of the Land.

The question then would be: Would adding amendments to our Constitution make things better? The answer is: Absolutely not! Right now, even though specific rights and protections are "guaranteed" in our U.S. Constitution, those in positions of power in and out of government have totally ignored these God-given, Constitutional rights.

I really don't have to tell you this because we all see it. Our schools, our churches and our businesses have been shut down. Our freedom of speech is silenced just because some person or group disagrees. We have citizens who have used their Constitutional right to speak up against policies they don't like and they (often average moms and dads) are labeled "domestic terrorists". In some states, citizens have been forcibly taken from their homes, handcuffed in front of their children and dragged off by the police. Yet cartels and criminals can easily cross our border with drugs and guns, bringing women and young children with them for the purpose of sex trafficking and these criminals are not arrested. Where is the "equal justice under the Law?" We are not being protected by government officials who took an oath to do so.

Whether the prisoners in the D.C. jails are guilty or not, they have been unconstitutionally detained in jails for over a year without bail or a "speedy trial", all in violation of our 6th Amendment. They are assumed guilty, not innocent until proven guilty.

Meanwhile a group called "Convention of States Project" is occupying the valuable time of our elected representatives with the *need* to apply to Congress to hold a national convention to make amendments - amendments that will be ignored just like the ones we already have.

In my opinion this attempt to get a convention is a shell game.....it is not worth your time to even consider it because You,

our Representatives, have much more important tasks at hand especially for such a time as this. Our Constitution gives you great power - power over the federal government to say "NO" to bad policy and dangerous legislation. We have all heard about a NPV (National Popular

Vote) with many advocates currently promoting such a change to our electoral process. If our Constitution is opened up to delegates who have a desire to fundamentally change our method of elections, as well as our existing 1st and 2nd amendments, our United States will be changed for the worse. We have no clear indication who will be the delegates and even who will pick the delegates as there is no instruction or guidance in Article V to prevent this from happening once a convention convenes. You can choose to protect our Constitution from the designs of those who would want to eliminate our freedoms by voting NO on HJR 1.

In closing let me share an observation Mr. Meckler of COSP has spent a great deal of his time for the past decade/s arm twisting and paying others like the late Tom Coburn and Rick Santorum, to go to states like OUR Ohio to tell our YOU what YOU should do. I believe Mr. Meckler, resides in California, so why is he not seeking to fix the terrible conditions and policies in his own state? They sure could use his help!

So.....

.....Please vote NO on HJR1

Thank you,

Barbara Burkard

WC GOP Executive Committee