

## Personal Testimony in Favor of HJR3 - A Resolution Calling for a Convention of the States

Offered by RaMarie Swart, Media Liaison for the Ohio Coalition for a Convention of States  
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### *Members of the House GO Committee:*

- I am 64 years old. I am old enough to have seen many changes that would affect our wonderful Republic. To add perspective - Harry Truman was the President when I was born. 12 Presidents and their administrations and three “wars” have touched my life in various ways.
- I am a Patriot, and the mother of an active duty military officer who has been deployed to the Middle East twice. My child is a Patriot.
- My husband served in the military during the Viet Nam era. He is a Patriot.
- My father was in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and I was raised in a Christian home by Patriots.
- I am a retired high school teacher and guidance counselor. I have served the public my entire working life, and have played an important role in the “raising” and training of thousands of youth, today’s and tomorrow’s leaders, who are now in their 30s, 40s, and 50s. One of them recently ran for the office of Mayor of Columbus.
- Via my child and my students, I have already made a difference. But, I seek to do more.

For these reasons, I believe that I am well qualified to speak to you today about the slow death of our nation, a nation that is falling prey to professional, full-time politicians and the disease of political correctness; a nation that is spending itself into oblivion, while at the same time disarming and taking a weakened position on the world stage; a nation that has lost its judicial system to political appointees who have been put in place to further political agendas, not to serve justice. **These things break my heart.**

I grew up in the 50s. It was a much simpler time. Family values were paramount, and it was expected that every able-bodied person would work for a living. It was assumed that I would learn a trade and make a positive contribution to society. I have done that. But, for as long as I can remember, our government has been taking a fourth of everything that I have made, without asking me what I think of the rotten management of my money, or asking me where it should be spent. **I am angry and I am fed up.**

I’m no fool. I’ve been watching where my money has been going. It has been paying for pork barrel projects, bogus research projects, duplicate governmental agencies, salaries for federal workers who don’t pay their taxes, foreign aid to countries who want to kill us, insolvent entitlement programs that are spinning out of control, bloated federal agency budgets, and bridges to nowhere. I could go on and on. At the same time, our military equipment is going to wrack and ruin, and the already insufficient active duty military and veterans’ benefits have been cut, while some older veterans are dying for lack of care. **This situation is beyond disgrace.**

“Business as usual” in Washington is insanity, and it has to stop! It is time for “We the People” to rise up and reclaim this country, reshaping it into the constitutional republic that it was designed to be. Our

Founding Fathers instituted a superior system of governance. While it is not perfect, and aspects of it have grown corrupt, our system is still the best one on the face of the planet. **It is worth fighting for.**

Over 100,000 petition signers, in the State of Ohio, believe that there is a solution to the abusive “rule” of professional politicians, the oppression of big government, and the unbridled spending and borrowing of the federal government. That solution lies in the passing of new amendments to the US Constitution via the convening of an Article V, convention of the states. A convention of the states is the only provision, instituted by the Founding Fathers, whereby the common people of this great nation could dismantle the unbridled power of a runaway Washington and return that power to the hands of the citizens.

***Members of the Committee:***

With the approval of HJR3, the Ohio House of Representatives will hold within its grasp, a down payment on a piece of history. Thirty-four states must pass the resolution before the convention may be called and new amendments can be proposed. The State of Ohio has always been a leader and a pace-setter in the national political arena. In this same spirit, Ohio should put itself on the ground floor of this historical movement, which has its sights set on doing something that has never been accomplished before in US history - the convening of an Article V convention of the states. With House and Senate approval, the great State of Ohio could be the sixth state to adopt the resolution and become one of the standard bearers for the reclaiming of America!

The time has come for term limits in Congress and the Judiciary. We must also balance the federal budget, and put many other strict fiscal restraints in place. We the people must put an end to *big government's* usurpation of our individual rights and freedoms, and the usurpation of the work that was originally intended to be done by the states.

The very survival of this blessed nation depends on all of us stepping up to ensure that the necessary changes come to fruition. As the people's representatives, the fate of this great nation rests squarely on your shoulders. Will you do your part by voting in favor of HJR3?

Thank you for your time.

RaMarie Swart