

Raymond G. Beck
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HD45 Representative Jennifer Gross
SD4 Senator George Lang

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Raymond Beck. I grew up in West Chester, Ohio and left after graduation as I was called to serve on active duty during the Vietnam War. I served my country as my ancestors did. Some of them died far from home. I stayed on active duty for 25 years, 8 of which were overseas. I returned to West Chester to retire. Having served in multiple locations in the US and around the world, I knew Ohio was the best place I had ever lived.

As a soldier I was told victory was assured in Vietnam. We were needed to be in Lebanon as peacekeepers, Kosovo as humanitarians, and Somalia to stop a civil war. We became the world's policemen. We had to invade Iraq because Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. We justly went to Afghanistan to destroy Al-Qaeda and find Osama Bin Ladin but stayed 20 years to complete nation building. We spent trillions of dollars while the infrastructure of our country crumbled, not to mention the tragic loss of 2,456 US military and 3,923 DoD contractors. (DoD Casualty Analysis System).

So, your approval of HJR-3, Convention of States, means a lot to me. It is hard to see the country I gave my life to.... broken. Our founders did not want professional politicians. When I look at the Federal government and compare then and now, some of the same politicians remain in place. It is time to set limits on how long our federal officials can serve. They wanted citizens to provide a voice for their communities and then return home. Today, our leaders create life-long careers. Their chief concern is how their decisions affect their next election, not how they will affect their constituents. Taking advantage of that power for personal gain is tempting. We need representatives who work to secure the future for the next generation, not themselves.

Our country is coming apart. The Federal government is out of control. We have runaway national debt (\$33 trillion), and a bloated government bureaucracy. Today, the military has one general officer for every 1400 servicemen. At the height of WW2 with 12 million under arms, we had one general officer for 6000 servicemen. (National Defense University Press). Laws are being written and voted on without proper consideration.

Do you remember the famous words of Nancy Pelosi concerning the Affordable Care Act, "...pass the bill so you can find out what's in it?" Federal regulations and mandates to expand or clarify the law are written by unelected bureaucrats. The underlying problem is that our career federal officials believe they are immune from accountability to We the People. Instead, they work for corporate lobbyists, deep state bureaucrats, and big donors. So long as enough constituents are convinced to re-elect them, they are free to do what they please.

Our most powerful tool to thwart this tyranny is Article V of the Constitution. It is the hope for our broken country. Please do not shy away from an opportunity to consider changes to the Constitution. Our founders were willing to risk their lives, fortunes, and honor. We ask you only to allow HJR-3 to be sent to the Ohio House for further discussion and consideration.

Thank you for your service to Ohio.