

## Testimony of Mark Maltbie as Proponent for HJR 2

### Ohio House Government Oversight Committee

Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the committee:

My name is Mark Maltbie, and I live in Trenton, Ohio, in Representative Thomas Hall's House District 46. I am an owner of a small Family business, in Fairfield, Ohio which turned 100 years old this past year. I am a volunteer with AMAC Action, and we seek your support of HJR 2.

**AMAC Action is the advocacy affiliate of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC), which is the 2.2 million member conservatives' alternative to AARP. Over 90,000 Ohioans are AMAC members, and I am pleased to present our views and recommendations. We strongly support the calling of a convention of the states for the purpose of developing a critically needed fiscal responsibility amendment to stop the Congress' runaway spending and explosion of our national debt, as well as restrain the federal government's overreach into matters that are the province of the States.**

I came of age in the late 60s, early 70s and like many left college, got a job, got married, had children and focused on my family, my business and my community. Over the past few years, I have realized that I, as well as many others, have abdicated our duty as citizens and allowed our government to stray far from the dictates of our Constitution and Bill of Rights. So, I am writing you now exercising my duty and privilege to be heard and ask that you use the powers bestowed on you, by the electorate of Ohio, to save this country by voting to convene a Convention of States.

Our federal government is failing Americans in many ways, and national security is no exception.

Article IV Section IV of the US Constitution reads "The United States shall...protect each state against invasion", yet we have a federal government that is allowing an unprecedented invasion of our southern border. According to a report (12/2/23) from the US customs and border patrol, illegal migrant crossings, from 150 countries, just in 2023, outnumber the populations of 17 of our States.

According to Gordon Chang, Senior Fellow of the Gatestone Institute many of these foreign nationals and special interest apprehensions are disconcerting since many are single, military age males coming from countries that hate America such as China (26,113), Russia (12,605), Turkey (30,830), Afghanistan (6,386) just to name a few. According to former Colonial McGregger, Hezbollah, which is a proxy of Iran, has agents and sleeper cells throughout our nation just waiting to be activated. Many retired military intelligence and counterterrorism experts warn of another attack similar to 911. Border patrol agents are overrun 200 to 1 and processing facilities are beyond capacity. As we meet here today, there is an 8 million+ strong caravan barreling toward our southern border.

Not only is this invasion a national security threat, it's also creating an economic disaster for our country. The annual cost of this invasion of illegal migrants will cost the American taxpayer \$451 billion per year. So, add that to our \$37 trillion dollar National debt. Social service programs across America are struggling, post covid, to find enough funds to assist underserved Americans that are struggling to pay rent, fight evictions, homelessness, childcare, and afford medical care. Fifty million people in the US are affected by food insecurity with children being affected the most. Our systems such as law enforcement, hospitals, courts, schools etc. are already stretched thin, and not prepared to handle this unprecedented influx. Our government is not prioritizing the needs of Americans. How many of your constituents got free housing; free cell phones; free clothes; free education; free medical care; free airfare or bus fare to any location in America; and \$2200 downloaded onto a debit card every month?

This border crisis over the last 4 years was a complete collapse of the rule of law. Our federal government was aiding and abetting organized crime resulting in human trafficking and the importation of fentanyl. Fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18-45. Sixty percent of unaccompanied alien children are caught by cartels and exploited through child pornography and drug trafficking. It is the largest form of modern-day slavery in the world, and a heartless, human travesty. Federal government has overreached its authority by tying the hands of border patrol agents, forcing them to stand down and not protect Americans.

Immigration is what makes this country great, but we need a legal, orderly process that adheres to our immigration laws. Last year, 25 state Governors felt the need to sign a joint statement in support of the state of Texas for "stepping up to protect American citizens from historic levels of illegal immigrants, deadly drugs like fentanyl, and terrorists entering our country." While I was thrilled by their show of support of Texas, a state that has been the target of Federal Government overreach, the blurred power of an executive branch on steroids, a bloated and power hungry Federal bureaucracy and Federal Government neglect, these were only words – it is well past the tipping point for action and that action must be a Convention of States which will allow the states to wrest back some of the power bestowed by the Constitution and fought for both on the battle field and in our everyday lives.

I sincerely thank you for allowing me to send you this testimony, considering this issue and most of all for having the courage and dedication to serve as elected officials.

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