

Melissa Helton Proponent testimony for HJR 2

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Dear House Government Oversight Committee Members,

I became involved with Convention of States at the request of my father who was a Convention of States volunteer. When Covid struck he asked if I would take his place as his age made him too vulnerable to feel comfortable with any in person gatherings.

I knew nothing about CoS but I have tremendous respect for my father who served during the Vietnam war and I agreed to lend a hand.

Little did I know what an education I would receive as a volunteer. Not just anyone can be a CoS volunteer. While at the outset I had no opinion about an Article V convention, it didn't take long to become a believer in the wisdom of this effort.

America was founded on the principle of individual liberties which are an extension of Natural Law. The role of government is to protect those rights.

Our Founders were escaping the tyranny of a Monarchy and risked their lives and fortunes to break free of King George who ruled over the colonies from across the ocean without regard for the well-being of the colonists. When the tyranny became unbearable (no taxation without representation) most famously the colonists at last resort having their pleas fall on deaf ears resorted to a violent revolt.

When the war was won a system of government was created with separation of powers to ensure that the newly formed government they were birthing did not become the very thing they just fought to escape.

Article V was just another safeguard to protect the American people from being ruled over by people living far away from the people they represent.

There was to be balance between the different branches of government and between the rights of the States and the Federal Government.

As predicted our Federal Government has expanded its scope and power beyond the original intent of the Constitution.

And thankfully an emergency parachute was created should the Federal government grow out of control becoming far removed from, and indifferent to the liberties of the people they were sent to Washington DC to serve.

Article V is the only non-violent Constitutionally prescribed method to assert our will to reign in a Federal Government drunk with power and fat off our labor and taxes.

Nearly 250 years ago the people had enough of being taxed by a King without any say in the governance over their own lives.

Today bureaucrats in Washington rule over the American people with the indifference to our rights and needs, no better than King George.

I urge Ohio, through the legislators, to support calling a Convention to limit the power of the Federal Government making it accountable to the people.

Federal employees in Washington, D.C. will never give up their power by limiting their terms or spending less of our hard-earned tax dollars. We the people must call a Convention to preserve our Republic and restore our liberties. Nothing demonstrated better than Covid 19 and the closing of our religious institutions while keeping open liquor stores how far away our government has gone from respecting the Bill of Rights. We need to restore the proper balance of power to our country and remind our representatives that they REPRESENT us they do not RULE us.

Thank you for your service to your country, to Ohio and most importantly to your constituents.

Respectfully,
Melissa Helton
