

Proponent Testimony of Michael Pyatt for HJR 2

Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the Government Oversight Committee:

My name is Mike Pyatt. I discovered Convention Of States in November of 2023 and immediately recognized the necessity for it. Our three pillars are fiscal restraints, term limits, and reduction of the size, scope and power of the federal government. I often hear people speak of the direction the country is headed in but rarely, if ever, do you hear of how far the country has strayed from The Constitution. There is no question that federal spending is out of control.

As I type, Google shows that the current federal budget is \$6.75 trillion with a deficit of \$1.8 trillion and total national debt of \$36.21 trillion. It states that the federal debt is 98% of GDP. To compare those numbers to a personal budget, I divided those numbers by 100,000,000 which would give an annual income of \$67,500. If you are spending \$18,000 more than you earn, you would be spending \$85,500 a year on top of already having \$362,100 in credit card debt. If you were a banker, would you give anyone a loan in that financial situation? I had been turned down for credit cards despite not being in nearly as bad debt. A lot of spending is done with printed money. This is called inflation which the federal government disguises with catchy terms like quantitative easing. Inflation is nothing but tax hidden in plain sight and the poorer that people are, the more they suffer. I saw a picture of a woman from Germany during their hyperinflation crisis of The Weimar Republic. She was throwing her money in her wood stove because she found that she could get more heat burning the paper than she could from firewood. I saw a photo of a man in Zimbabwe during their hyperinflation crisis holding a sign that read "Starving Billionaire."

We recently voted against a gerrymandering issue here in Ohio. I believe term limits would greatly curtail any efforts by either party to gerrymander things in their favor. Having greater turnover would more than likely keep either side from having a supermajority for any length of time. It would also keep one, or a few, elected officials from becoming too influential. Over the last four years, we have seen the decline of some elected leaders. Fortunately, within the last few months, a couple have announced their retirement. With term limits, we would be far less likely to have elected people in mental decline directing our country.

The Tenth Amendment states, "The powers not delegated to The United States by The Constitution, nor prohibited by it, to The States, are reserved to The States respectively, or to The People. This gives enormous authority, and duty to The States. I have not seen any Constitutional authority for the federal government to tell The States how children are to be

educated. I have also not seen any Constitutional authority for the federal government to provide social security or Medicare or Medicaid. These are huge spending problems requiring The States to intervene. Before I graduated college in 1994, I saw news that Medicare spent about \$50 billion keeping terminal patients alive for their final two months. I think most have heard the federal government isn't going to fix itself. Tax simplification attempts result in hundreds of new laws and thousands of pages of regulations.

In Thomas Sowell's book, *Social Justice Fallacies*, he talks about surrogate decision makers. He said this type of activity by elites brought about a saying..."A stupid man could put on his own coat better than a wise man could do it for him." We have too many in the federal government trying to put our coats on better than we can do it ourselves.

I heard a riddle one that asked, "What is the purpose of a jury?" The answer to the riddle was, "To decide which side has the better attorney. That is not the purpose of a jury. The purpose of a jury is to cut through the bureaucratic rigidity of the judicial system by introducing common sense of the people. One of my COS colleagues carries a sign at our statehouse events that reads, "It is time to use The Constitution to save The Constitution." It is time for The States to fulfill their 10th Amendment duty and put the brakes on a federal government spiraling out of control. We can do it with a Convention of States resolution.

Please vote to pass HJR 2 out of committee and on to the full House for consideration.