

Testimony of Tyler W. Richey in support of HJR 2

Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, and Ranking member Humphrey:

Thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective as a proponent of HJR 2 in the Government Oversight Committee.

I am a product engineer living in Xenia area with my wife. I love this country, I love liberty, and I want to preserve it for my family and my future children and grandchildren. I am dismayed to see what has taken place in this country on the federal level. The federal government has completely abdicated its Constitutional responsibilities in every enumerated area, and has seized other powers specifically enumerated only to the states or to We, the People. It is not getting out of control; it is now completely out of control and we must make every effort to empower the states and the People once more.

I am writing to you to ask for your support in calling for a Convention of States by supporting H.J.R. No. 2. While I could list any number of issues stemming from the behemoth federal government, there is one issue that specifically has affected me greatly over the years. This issue is inflation.

My wife and I recently sold our home and subsequently purchased a new one. Both had substantially inflated prices and this particularly hurts new home-buyers, who get less home for more money, and are forced to reduce their payments to achievable levels by signing up for longer-term mortgages with higher interest rates. We were lucky to have a home to sell to offset the high, high number for which we purchased our home.

Another area where inflation has hurt my family is in my daily drive to work. I drive 50 miles round trip and my typical gas bill just a year ago was approximately \$30 a week. It has now increase to \$50 or even \$60 dollars on average per week. These costs really add up over time, especially considering that while my property tax, utilities, and other goods continually increase in price, it seems my salary can never quite keep up, despite my best efforts.

I am a very value-minded person where possible, and as such I typically buy used rather than new, fix things as much as possible before considering replacing them, and tend to buy lower-cost foods. There are several regular items that I purchase for which I have noticed a 100% increase in price over the last year. This includes household necessities such as water softener salt and cleaning supplies, toilet paper, napkins and paper towels (not all brands have seen this, but the cheaper brands, already selling at lower profit margins, are the ones that are first forced to increase their prices). Certain foods that I purchase have also experienced a 100% increase in price, including meats (more than 100% increase, some items are 150% or more) and yes, the McDouble at McDonald's.

This reflects a basic truth that inflation hurts the most vulnerable people the most – the poor and the elderly who live on fixed incomes.

All this comes under the threatening cloud of a looming, unconstitutional federal mandate to private individuals claiming that if we do not inject chemicals into our bodies that we may (or may not) object to, we are not allowed to work and put food on the tables for our children. We should not be mandating things in a free country.

It is clear that something needs to be done. There is only one escape lever that the Framers provided to the states and to the people that does not involve the federal government, and the Convention of States is it.

For these reasons, I ask you to vote in favor of HJR 2.

Thank you for your service to me and the citizens of Ohio.

Thank you,

Tyler Richey