



Sponsor Testimony for Senate Joint Resolution 3

State Senators Michele Reynolds and George Lang

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, Jr. and members of the General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 3. This resolution urges Congress to call for a Convention of the States under Article V of the Constitution of the United States.

The root of frustration felt by citizens across America is that our federal government does whatever it wants, and there is nothing ordinary citizens can do about it. It doesn't seem to matter who they send to represent them in Washington, D.C. They have lost control of their government.

A Convention of States will address three critical issues:

1. Imposing fiscal restraints on the federal government
2. Limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government
3. Establishing term limits for federal officials and members of Congress

If passed, Ohio would join 19 other states that have already approved this resolution, including Florida, Georgia, Alaska, Alabama, Tennessee, Indiana, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arizona, North Dakota, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Utah, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Nebraska, West Virginia, and South Carolina.

While there is nothing "wrong" with our Constitution, the problems we face today are undeniably the result of constitutional interpretations that capitalize on ambiguities in the wording of certain phrases, such as the General Welfare Clause. The federal government doesn't "ignore" the Constitution—it takes advantage of loopholes created through practice and precedent. The only way to close these loopholes definitively is through constitutional amendments that reinstate limitations on federal power in clear, modern language.

Some express concerns about a potential "runaway convention." However, the process contains numerous, redundant protections:

- The scope of authority is defined by the 34 applications that trigger the convention
- State legislatures can recall delegates who exceed their authority
- Any proposals would require ratification by 38 states

This systemic problem requires a systemic solution. The Founders anticipated federal overreach and gave states a constitutional tool to address it. As George Mason insisted at the 1787 Constitutional Convention, states needed a way to propose amendments when the federal government became too powerful.

As Ronald Reagan said, "You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. Will we preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on earth, or will we sentence them to take the first step into a thousand years of darkness?"

I want to thank my joint sponsor for their leadership on this resolution. To the entire committee, thank you for your time and consideration as we work to preserve our constitutional republic for future generations.

I am happy to answer any questions at this time.