

**TESTIMONY OF  
DIANA TELLES  
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON SJR-3**

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the committee, my name is Diana Telles, Ohio Senate district 4. I am a volunteer with Convention of States Action and seek your support of SJR-3.

This 2,000 page annotated Constitution is the legal authority for the federal government and the court system. This contains the original Constitution, the 27 amendments, plus 230 years of Supreme Court rulings and how those interpretations affect the original meaning of the document.

Worried about “touching” our precious Constitution with a state convention? Every time the Supreme Court rules on a matter of constitutionality, this “interpreted” US Constitution grows bigger.

Considering this and the current state in Washington, we have problems that career politicians in DC are not going to fix.

But, we need look no further than our nation’s by-laws: the US Constitution. The second clause of Article V (still buried in here) offers a safe and civil response to our dire situation using the collective power of the states. Ohio and the rest of the states must take a seat at the table and initiate a strong offense to affect permanent change in Washington.

Can you imagine playing a role in the proposal and adoption of any one of these amendments?

- Restore the original meaning of the Commerce and General Welfare Clauses
- Limit federal legislation to single-subject
- Permanently set the Supreme Court to 9 judges

At some point members of Congress need to pass legislation to support the efforts of DOGE. Will they? The states can propose an amendment to limit dead weight in the federal bureaucracy.

If the next presidential administration is less committed to this effort, the bloated bureaucracy and spending will return unless you codify a process to address it.

SJR-3 is straightforward, four pages. It’s simply an application to Congress for a state amending convention. No more, no less. Please remain focused on resolution verbiage without the distraction of a few noisy detractors. No, we are not asking to “open up” or “rewrite” the Constitution. We do not seek a Constitutional Convention. That’s preposterous. We’re asking for an opportunity for the states to write amendments. The passage of SJR-3 is far too important to allow its meaning to be overshadowed by our opponents’ doomsday language designed to impart fear.

Our detractors resort to ad hominem attacks to discredit the reputations of our leadership, our grassroots, and those of our Founders. These attacks are fallacies that exemplify bad reasoning. Our opponents use hyperbolic language such as “Con-Con” to describe the convention we seek. Such juvenile terminology lacks the validity and the sophistication deserving of a provision found in our Constitution. The denigration also detracts from healthy debate.

Furthermore, the Constitutional Convention of 1787 did not “run away.” Our Founders acted in accordance with instructions from their respective states. The president of the Constitutional Convention was George Washington, the most trusted, honest leader of the age.

Our opponents fail to mention that our Founders *unanimously* adopted the state amending portion of Article V, and that when ratified, amendments shall become part of *this* Constitution...not a new one. The state amending process operates *within* the framework of the Constitution. We can use the Constitution to *save* the Constitution, but it contains no provision for destroying itself.

Please consider the US Congress is right now a permanent Article V convention. Congress can propose amendments on any subject, any day of the week. It’s hard to imagine the states being more irresponsible than Congress.

Yet, there is no “running away” or dangerous near-miss with crazy amendments out of Congress. Why not? Congress is constrained by the political realities of ratification—38 states must pass any proposed amendment.

Since 1789, there have been nearly 12,000 proposed amendments to the Constitution....average of about 50 per year. Of these, only 33 have been sent to the states and only 27 ratified – the ones that were supported by the citizens.

There were people who feared our Founders’ Declaration of Independence from Britain. The Founders bravely forged ahead anyway. There were people who opposed the abolition of slavery. Lincoln had the courage to do it anyway. There were people who opposed JFK and his challenge to place a man on the moon. He boldly issued the challenge anyway.

An amending convention of states is a safety feature packed into our Constitution by our Founders for this very moment in history.

The commitment you made to uphold the Constitution includes an Article V state convention for proposing amendments. So long as Congress refuses to act, it is the *duty* of state legislatures to utilize this tool, not deny it.

Thank you for your time today. Please reach out to us with questions.