

Testimony of Lisa Whitacre in Support of SJR3 – March 11, 2025
General Government Committee of the Ohio Senate, Columbus, Ohio

Committee Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and Committee Members. My name is Lisa Whitacre. I reside in Senate District 4. I am excited to support SJR3 and I hope you are too because I see it as a critical step to ending corruption.

As a former small business owner, I experienced firsthand how government overreach can devastate hardworking citizens. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I was forced to house tenants who could not pay rent, yet I was still responsible for all the utilities, maintenance, operations and taxes. The government dictated what I could and could not do with my own property, stripping me of my rights while protecting people who took advantage of the system. Like many small business owners, I sold my business because I simply could not afford to keep going under these unfair policies.

Meanwhile, career politicians in Washington made decisions that crushed small business owners like me while bailing out massive corporations and special interests. They spent trillions of dollars irresponsibly, driving up inflation and making it harder for ordinary Americans to recover. My business did not qualify for Payroll Protection Program loans because it was built and run on sweat equity. It became clear to me that those in power were not interested in fairness or accountability—they were interested in protecting their own influence, and influencers, no matter the cost to people like me.

We, the people, have one opportunity to root out corruption at the federal level—by calling for a Convention of States under Article V of the U.S. Constitution. SJR3 is a vital step in this effort, and without Ohio's support, citizens might be forced to conclude that our own state government is complicit in the same corruption plaguing Washington. If Ohio lawmakers refuse to take action, what message does that send? That those in power would rather protect a broken system than fight for the people they serve?

The Convention of States would propose constitutional amendments to end the cycle of corruption and restore accountability, only within these 3 areas:

1. Term Limits on Congress – Washington has become a haven for career politicians who serve themselves instead of the people. Term limits will ensure that public office is about service, not personal gain.
2. Mandatory Fiscal Restraint – No household or business can survive endless debt, and neither can our country. Washington’s reckless spending must be stopped before our children and grandchildren are left to pay the price.
3. Limits on Federal Power – The federal government continues to expand its reach, dictating policies that should be left to the states and the people. Amendments in this area could restore balance and prevent further overreach.

This is not about party politics—it is about integrity. It is about ensuring that those in power are held accountable to the American people. Ohio has the chance to lead in this effort, to show the country that we stand against corruption. Failure to support this resolution would suggest that Ohio’s leaders prefer the status quo, where corruption thrives, and citizens suffer.

I urge you to stand with Ohio businesses, families, and taxpayers. Support SJR3. This is our chance to fix what is broken before it is too late.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on such an important issue and thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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