

OHIO SENATE TESTIMONY ON SJR 3 Submitted for oral delivery on June 17, 2025

Senators and guests,

I'm John Kerezy, here today NOT not being paid by any organization or special interest. I'm a citizen who's convinced that a convention of states is now the ONLY way to prevent a meltdown of our federal government and ruination of our country.

First, allow me to share some research which I did recently. I teach at Cuyahoga Community College. What do 18 and 19 year olds there think about term limits? Or a balanced budget? Or wasteful government spending? To find out, I conducted a survey of students in two Comm 1010 fundamentals of speech communication classes. Of the 31 students who responded, 87% of them support a constitutional amendment to balance the federal budget. About 77% of them support term limits. And when asked about how much of federal government spending is wasteful and inefficient, 97% said either some of it, much of it, or a lot of it is wasteful. 97%. The details are posted at www.eyeoncleveland.com, my blog site.

Next, consider that checks and balances ought also to be working properly between our state and federal governments. In an article written for the Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy, Robert Natelson, a senior fellow with the Independence Institute, believes that calling for a Convention of States is essential to restoring federalism, that states need to rein in a runaway federal government.

Natelson is in excellent company. In one of his Federalist Papers, James Madison wrote this "The powers delegated by the proposed constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the state governments are numerous and indefinite."

What Madison and all our framers wanted was federalism in the sense that much of the power to govern would reside at the state level, not in Washington. They sought to prevent a runaway federal government. Need proof? Look at the proportion of words used in the constitution itself. The word CONGRESS is mentioned there 23 times, PRESIDENT is mentioned 30 times. The word JUDICIAL – just 6 times. The words STATE or STATES are mentioned 174 times in the Constitution.

Brit Hume, who's been covering Washington DC for nearly 55 years, now says repeatedly that Congress is completely unable to rein in expenditures.

Finally, let me finish a thought from Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln's train made three stops in Ohio on its way to Washington for the 1861 inauguration. When in Cleveland, Lincoln said this, quote: "If all do not join NOW to save the good old ship of the Union this voyage, NOBODY will have a chance to pilot her on another voyage."

Ohio Senators, that ship is in great danger, again, in 2025. And if you don't take action – right now – its failure is imminent.