

82ND HOUSE DISTRICT

DEFIANCE, PAULDING, AND VAN WERT
COUNTIES, AND THE NORTHWEST CORNER
OF AUGLAIZE COUNTY

Committees

Economic and Workforce
Development; Energy and
Natural Resources; Vice
Chairman of Ways and Means



COLUMBUS OFFICE

VERN RIFFE CENTER
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET 11TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-0253
PHONE: (614) 644-5091
REP82@OHIOHOUSE.GOV

State Representative Craig S. Riedel Sponsor Testimony House Joint Resolution 1

Chairman Wiggam, Vice-Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Joint Resolution (HJR) 1. This resolution urges Congress to call for a Convention of the States under Article V of the Constitution. A Convention of States will address three main issues that will facilitate conversation in Ohio, 1) limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, 2) support a balanced budget and 3) establish term limits for federal legislators. If passed in Ohio, this resolution will encourage more states around the country to join in the effort of reigning in the federal government and giving power back to the states.

The democratic system of government was established to promote freedom through election by its citizens. However, as time progresses we see history repeating itself and more of the same federal officials in office. I believe we need to limit the power of large government and break up the ties an elected official has to the legislative branch and its stakeholders through term limits.

For example, in a business environment there is always natural competition between companies to achieve the best results. They need to build a new rapport among customers through constant hard work. With a background in private business for over 27 years, I understand the incentives businesses need to have in order to gain new clients. In the government sector, we need to keep this same mindset and hold accountability to the ones who are making decisions on our behalf, which is sometimes lost over years of continual service.

This mindset of accountability is extremely important when it comes to decisions made about budgets and spending as well because the taxpayers are directly impacted on a state and local monetary level. Poor decisions of government overreach and regulations can hinder business growth and economic development for our state and nation.

Earlier this year, I sponsored House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 3 to urge Congress to introduce an amendment for term limits to our Constitution. At this time, Representative McClain and I find it necessary to expand this concept further through to HJR 1. HJR 1 will promote the conversations in Ohio about limiting power by restricting jurisdiction, creating fiscal boundaries, and establishing term limits.

The Founders of our country created a path for states to reclaim their power in anticipation of overreach. Article V of the Constitution provides states the power to call a Convention of States to propose such amendments. This resolution will join Ohio with 15 other states attempting to reign in the federal government.

I want to thank Representative McClain for his leadership as the sponsor of this resolution. To the entire committee, thank you for your time and attention as you thoughtfully consider this important matter.