

Testimony of Dale Maris in support of SJR No. 4

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Cirino, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Maris from Harrison, OH, Senate District 8, Senator Louis W. Blessing, III. I serve as a Convention of States Regional Captain covering Southwest Ohio. I work with 70 Volunteer Leaders and 1,536 Volunteers along with 15,223 supporters in COS Region 5. I am a retired V.P., manager, and engineer in the Information Technology Industry.

I believe my family history reflects all the goodness and great qualities that our country has to offer.

An early ancestor on my father's side from England was fined and finally sent to prison for his religious beliefs. In 1683 he moved his family to America to be free to practice his religious beliefs. He purchased a large tract of land from William Penn and settled in Springfield, PA. He was an active member of the 'Friends' community, also known as Quakers, and served in many public roles, such as Justice of the Peace, a Judge on the Courts, and a pastor in his church. His family spread the Quaker's religion West to Kansas where I was born.

My mother's German family came to America and moved to Kansas. My uncle grew up on a farm in central Kansas where they lived in a dugout for a year. He loved the outdoors and wondered about the stars and planets as a young child. With the aid of his mother's funds from selling eggs for extra money, he walked and hitchhiked to Wisconsin to attend college. This led to a career as an Ph.D. In Astrophysicist from Harvard where he taught, researched, and discovered new theories about comets, discovered new stars and helped put our first rockets into space. Where else can an immigrant from a rural farm fulfill his potential but in America?

I had the freedom with my career to use my mathematical and logic skills to develop an innovative computer system in the 70's. This design advanced the industry establishing cutting edge software marketed by many companies worldwide. This provided a good life for my family and fulfilled my desires to improve our society.

Mankind has never seen the advancements in civilization like those that have taken place here in the United States. A people free of government control, existing in a peaceful, Judeo-Christian society can advance mankind well beyond a daily fight for survival, which sadly, I've witnessed firsthand in other countries during my international business ventures.

Today, I am sickened with fear that our economic climate and culture is plagued with the notion that our freedoms and capitalistic nature are no longer of value to many in this country. My stepson will likely lose his job as an airline pilot due to his preexisting genetic health condition that makes him a bad candidate for Covid vaccine. He has already battled Covid. He has two children both looking to lose their careers as well. These are only three but very powerful examples to the destructive nature of government overreach. Such flagrant disregard for human freedom runs counter to the environment that fostered my ancestors into prosperity and love of country.

I truly believe in the Convention of States as the correct and peaceful manner to reset our country back to the free and productive country. We must use the Constitution and Article V to restore our country's freedoms that allow our citizens to continue their creative and productive ways that benefit all of mankind.

I Thank you for your service to Ohio and for the opportunity to provide my testimony and letting me tell my story. I ask that you vote SJR 4 out of your committee, so my supporters have a voice in this important Resolution. Also, Harrison Ohio passed their own Resolution in support of Convention of States.