

Testimony of Leo Fohl in support of SJR No. 4

5/13/2022

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

I am a retired computer systems professional, a veteran of the United States Coast Guard, and have been a supporter and volunteer for the Convention of States project here in Ohio for several years. I am also a concerned parent and grandparent from Macedonia, Ohio, Ohio House District 37.

Much has been already written by my fellow Ohio Convention of States supporters about why Ohio should pass SJR No. 4. I will try not to repeat it.

Remember, the STATES created the Federal Government. By what has been happening in our country in recent years, you would think it to be reversed. The Founders designed the Federal Government with many checks and balances, one of which is Article V of the Constitution which gives state legislators the power to call a Convention of States for proposing amendments to the Constitution. NOW is the time for state legislators to follow through on their responsibility of oversight on the Federal Government by passing SJR No. 4. Using Article V of the Constitution to call a Convention of States to propose amendments to the Constitution is a "Solution as Big as the Problem".

Nineteen States, AK, AL, AR, AZ, FL, GA, IN, LA, MO, MS, NE, ND, OK, SC, TN, TX, UT, WV, and WI, have already passed our resolution. These states have already completed their hearings and listened to our opponents. This fact alone, that nineteen states have already passed our resolution should give legislators confidence in voting for our resolution. As a matter of fact, in 2013 Ohio passed a Balanced Budget Amendment using Article V.

The opponents to the Convention of States project: George Soros, 230 statist organizations, and a few radical fringe groups are attempting to defeat the Convention of States Project by spreading misinformation about the Article V process causing fear, uncertainty, and doubt. Feel free to contact any member of the Ohio Convention of States Project team should any committee member or other legislators have questions about the Convention of States Project or its opponents.

Article V gives us hope! It is the Founders' constitutional solution to return to federalism where most of our governance should be occurring at the state and local levels.

Please support SJR1 No. 4 and pass it on to the Senate for a full vote. Thank you for your service to Ohio and for providing me with an opportunity for testimony.