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**Sponsor Testimony**

Senate Joint Resolution 4

General Government Budget Committee

May 17th, 2022

Chairman Peterson, Vice-Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the General Government Budget Committee: Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Joint Resolution 4. This resolution urges the United States Congress to call for a Convention of the States under Article V of the United States Constitution.

The Convention of States application has passed in 15 states so far. The aim of this resolution is to bring that number to 16. Article V is an important constitutional tool that our founders created for states to hold our federal government accountable. The size and scope of the federal government has grown consistently throughout our history with more and more responsibility abdicated by Congress to unelected bureaucrats.

A Convention of States would be used to propose amendments to the Constitution that would limit the authority and jurisdiction of the federal government, support a balanced budget and establish term limits for federal legislators. If passed in Ohio, this resolution will encourage more states around the country to join in the effort. Once 34 states have passed a resolution, a convention can be held to reign in the federal government and give sovereignty back to the states.

We have watched the federal government and Washington D.C. steadily grow out of control with its size and spending, shown by the increasing \$30 trillion dollar debt. It controls more of the operations of our states and more of our daily lives than it was ever intended to. The power of the federal government has always

been intended to flow from the states to the federal government, but over the course of time that has reversed to the detriment of our country. This is not a political partisan debate, but rather one of the only mechanisms to restore a balance of state rights. With over 2.3 million individuals signing onto the petition and 80% of voters approving of a constitutional amendment to place term limits on federal legislators, the time has come for the states to exercise their check on the out-of-control growth of the federal government.

Senate Joint Resolution 4 is a path for states to reclaim their power from federal overreach. Thank you again for your time and consideration of this essential resolution. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.