

May 24, 2022

RE: Written Testimony Against Ohio SJR4

To Sen. Peterson, Chair; Sen. Cirino, Vice Chair; Sen. Craig, Ranking Member; and Members of the Senate General Government Budget Committee:

My name is Judi Caler, and I'm President of Citizens Against an Article V Convention. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony against **SJR4**.

The Convention of States Project is not the grassroots organization it pretends to be. I researched and wrote this article to prove it:

["Dark Money¹—Not the Grassroots—Is Behind the Convention of States Organizations \(COS\)"](#) proves, with links to source documentation, that almost 2/3 of the money driving COS's effort to apply to Congress for a constitutional convention under Article V of the US Constitution, is coming from major donors giving COS \$5,000 to \$2,000,000 over the latest 3 years of reporting available. I've attached the PDF also.

While Mark Meckler, President of COS begs grandma for \$5.00 per month from her fixed income and pockets hundreds of thousands of dollars in salary each year for himself and his family, he's bringing in tens of millions of dollars, mostly from the superrich.

Ask yourself why are multi-millionaires and billionaires trying to get their hands on our Constitution? What would the patriots sacrificing to support Meckler say, if they knew they were fooled into believing this is a grassroots movement to save America?

You might recall that at last week's proponents' hearing, Meckler said,

"This is not a partisan matter. This is not a fringe far right or far left matter. This is a matter for the American People. When polled broadly, all across the United States of America, over 66% of Americans, when they say they understand what this is, when they're told what it is, are in favor. And here in your home state of

Ohio, over 100,000 people have now signed a petition asking you to support this resolution.”

A couple of years ago, I looked into Meckler’s claims of massive support and wrote

the "[Phony Petitions & Polls](#)" flyer which shows how the Convention of States Project (COS) showcases unverified, raw data from petitions to deceive legislators into believing their constituents are demanding a “convention of states.” But Meckler can't guarantee his signatures are valid. And he polls ask trick questions.

The Article V convention issue is complicated, as you well know. You can’t possibly understand this issue in a 3-minute robocall or an online petition featuring no explanation about the dangers of an Article V convention, while including misinformation about why the Framers gave us the convention method in Article V. In fact, in their operating clauses, both SJR4 and the COS petition ask you to vote for a “limited” or “restricted” convention *which doesn't exist!* Their opposition would fall away if a convention could actually be limited. But then, so would the motives of their backers!

Most people have no idea what an Article V convention or a “convention of states” is. And when they learn more, they oppose it. In fact, The COS organization defines, in some of their applications, in delegate bills, and/or in testimony, the term “convention of states” as a convention that can’t possibly run away. For example, they say they know what will happen at the convention, even though Congress has never called one. They say each state gets one vote; the delegates cannot veer from the subject of the application; the Delegates are bound to state legislators by agency law; Delegates who violate their oath can be recalled and subject to penalties; State Legislatures select & control the Delegates; every state application must be the same, etc. And then they tell you that this definition applies to a convention under Article V which was written by our Framers!

You might surmise from this testimony that I don’t trust COS. That feeling is shared by a long-term South Dakota representative and candidate for Senator who was formerly a COS supporter. On May 15, 2022, [Mark Willadsen, wrote the following to COS:](#)

“Enclosed is my check for \$1000.00. I am returning your contribution to my campaign for District 9 State Senate of April 25, 2022.

“Since receiving your contribution, I have heard several radio advertisements which the Convention of States have paid for. These advertisements are full of half-truths, innuendos, and outright lies about Candidates you oppose. I believe there should be no place for that in South Dakota. I have voted for COS legislation every time I have had the opportunity in my 14 years of service in the SD House of Representatives. You should not expect that to continue because of your actions. I do not want to be associated with an organization that thinks this activity is OK. If we are to halt this kind of activity, it starts with me.”

In fact, Meckler smears his opponents, citizens or legislators, who use truth and logic to counter his claims about the issue. When the opposition tells the truth about the Constitution & history, Meckler often jumps in to accuse those testifying of slandering the Framers and having to defend their legacy with his misinformation. He has stooped so low as to have caused opponents’ speaking engagements to be cancelled through dishonest tactics.

Meckler was correct in saying that this is not a Left/Right/bipartisan issue. This is a globalist v. federalist form of government issue. Those of us that want to bring back the sovereignty of our nation and our states v. the globalists who would dissolve the states and Congress. That’s because our Constitution is getting in their way.

The Feds may be ignoring our Constitution now; but at least it’s still in place, so that we can dust it off and start using it again. That won’t be the case, if Congress calls an Article V convention triggered by this dangerous legislation.

Please defend our Constitution and Vote No on Ohio SJR4.

Thank you for your consideration.

