

## Testimony of Melanie Hunt in opposition to SJR4

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Cirino, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee--Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this call for a Constitutional Convention. I am a homeschooling mom of 6 from Delaware, Ohio, Senate District 19.

I have read Senate Joint Resolution 4 and the proponent testimony. It is clear that these individuals are engaged patriots, just like me, who are eager to fix what we can all probably agree is an out of control federal government. However, proponents argue that those who are opposed to a Constitutional Convention have no other solutions to this out of control federal government...that somehow we have pet projects or interests to protect. I can only speak for myself but none of that is the case. I do recognize, however, that the one and only Constitutional Convention we have had resulted in completely tossing aside the existing governing document at that time. The stated rules for meeting to amend that document weren't followed then so there is precedence for that to happen again if we ever do have another Constitutional Convention in this country.

As a homeschooling mom, I have my kids learn to parse complex sentences. Nowhere is this more helpful than in following the complex sentence structures in our founding documents. I call your attention to the color coded text of Article V of the Constitution which I submitted with my testimony. The phrase in purple, "...on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States..." does not specify that these applications need to be done at the same time or even for the same reasons. The green text "The Congress...shall call a convention..." gives no indication how a convention is to be convened. Congress is given a free hand to determine the method of selecting delegates. The red text "...for proposing Amendments" does not limit the number of subject matter of proposed amendments. Finally, the blue text "...which...shall be valid...as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress." Ultimately, it is Congress itself which would choose the mode of ratification. However, as was the case in the first Constitutional Convention in 1787, there is also precedence that the delegates could change the mode of ratification entirely.

In closing, we simply cannot say with absolute certainty that a Constitutional Convention can be limited. If that were the case, the original delegates to our one and only Convention would have restrained themselves to their assigned task and we would still be governed under the amended Articles of Confederation.

Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.