



Representative Bernie Willis

74th House District

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the committee, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak on H.J.R. 3. This imperative resolution urges Congress to call for a Convention of the States under Article V of the Constitution. A Convention of States will focus on three main issues that will facilitate conversation in our state. It will first and foremost support a balanced budget; it will limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government and finally it will establish necessary term limits for federal legislators. If passed in Ohio, this resolution will encourage more states around the country to join in the effort of reigning in the federal government and offering more power back to that of the states.

I sponsored House Joint Resolution (H.J.R) 3 as I have found it baffling how our elected officials for decades have been incapable of balancing a budget that over time has progressively gotten worse. This accountability is important when it comes to decisions made about budgets and spending as our citizens, the taxpayers, are directly impacted on a state and local monetary level. Poor decisions of government overreach and regulations can stunt or even cripple business growth and economic development for our state and nation. As elected officials for our state, it is our responsibility to take this initiative into our own hands if our federal government refuses to do so on their own terms.

Next, H.J.R. 3 is a tool for us the state, to urge Congress to introduce an amendment for term limits to our Constitution. The democratic system of government was established to promote freedom through election by its citizens. As time progresses though, we see history repeating itself and more of the same federal officials in office. This current system has established career politicians whose greed has been on display over the past several years. I believe that we need to limit the power of large overreaching government and break up the ties an elected official has to the legislative branch and its stakeholders through term limits.

Representative McClain and I find it necessary to expand this concept further through to H.J.R. 3. H.J.R.3 will promote the conversations in Ohio about limiting power by restricting jurisdiction, creating fiscal boundaries, and establishing term limits. The Founding Fathers of our country created this path for states to reclaim their power in anticipation of overreach. This was implemented with the purpose to reign in our federal government. Article V of the Constitution

provides states the power to call a Convention of States to propose such amendments so that we can retain our power of the state. This resolution will join Ohio with numerous additional states my colleague has already mentioned (nearly 20) attempting to manage the federal governments control.

I want to thank Representative McClain for his leadership sponsoring this resolution and spearheading this nationwide campaign in our great state. I thank you for your consideration of House Joint Resolution 3, and I am happy to attempt to answer any questions you may have.