

Government Oversight Committee
Proponent Testimony by Dale Maris

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the Committee.

My name is Dale Maris from Whitewater Township, OH, House District 29 with Representative Abrams. I serve as a Convention of States Regional Captain covering Southwest Ohio. I represent over eighteen thousand COS supporters in my Southwest Ohio Region.

I am a retired V.P., manager, and innovator in the Information Technology Industry. I played a major role in early development and advancing this field. I have consulted many government agencies, and my software is being used worldwide.

In my position, I have been researching the US Constitution to aide with teaching the Patriot Academy's Constitution, and Biblical Citizenship in Modern America courses. Through my studies I have focused on the separation of powers and original meanings by our founding fathers in the Constitution. It is well understood that the US constitution was based on the separation of powers to prevent anyone area of our government from becoming too powerful and overstepping their designated boundaries. What seems less understood is the separation of powers between the federal government and the states and municipality's governments. The founders of our constitution were concerned with any central government becoming a tyrannical government and taking away the freedoms of its citizens. Many of our founders were concerned and passing the constitution almost didn't occur without the Bill of Rights.

Article I Section 8, defines the powers of US Congress. To summarize, our federal government is to oversee and run our interactions with foreign nations and see that the States instill a fair commerce system between themselves. You understand the powers per the constitution to regulate and oversee the people, belong to the states and their municipalities legislatures. Compare this to what the federal government is today, and it's far different, with many departments, like Education, EPA, Secretary of Agriculture, Dept of Energy, how much water to flush your toilet, and the list goes on. We can all agree the federal government has no place in running the lives of the citizens of the states and controlling businesses.

The constitution addresses how this balance of powers between the federal government and States is to be maintained. The states are designated by our constitution to oversee our federal government, as the states created the federal government and are the only ones to approve amendments. To maintain this balance of Powers, the states have the means to suggest amendments when the federal government overrun their constitutional boundaries.

Article V: The Congress, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments.

When congress oversteps their boundaries, then the states have the duty and powers to rebalance this overreach. As a State Legislator, you first took an oath to uphold the federal constitution before our state constitution. As I see it, this balancing of powers is clear and without the states ever fulfilling their duty under Article V, our federal government has overstepped their boundaries per our constitution.

Before this committee is HJR3, is a convention of states resolution to help correct this overreach of federal powers. The entire context of this resolution is to restore some of the limitations placed on our

federal government within our constitution. This is a start to return our country to the peaceful and civil society it was in the past. HJR3 is plainly written to address three areas:

- impose fiscal restraints on the federal government,
- limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and
- limit the terms of office for its officials and Members of Congress.

Everyone identifies that our country is heading in the wrong direction and that our federal government is attacking its citizens in multiple areas, schools, water rights, gas stoves, light bulbs etc. and the list goes on and on. They have also exceeded their budget, failed with protecting our borders, restricted energy and looking at allowing worldwide control of our country. I urged you to take a stand and protect our constitution and our rights. Now is your time. Please vote HJR3 out of committee so your fellow representatives may have their voices heard. Our goal is just to have a discussion to consider means to correct these three areas of federal overreach.