

Testimony of Jim Murphy in support of HJR-3
HD58 Representative Al Cutrona
SD33 Senator Michael Rulli

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and Members of the Committee:

I am a semi-retired engineer and father of eight. My wife and I run a pro-life ministry currently in addition to homeschooling our children for 20 years. I'm a concerned hard-working American who worries about the direction our country is headed. I do realize that many years of abuse at the hands of big government has brought us where we are today. I speak to many friends and family members who are in agreement with me.

I had not heard of Convention of States until just over a year ago when a COS representative brought the movement to my attention. What a perfect vehicle for returning the Constitution back to what our Founding Fathers intended. Such a convention could make a real and long-term impact on how the federal government can operate.

The most significant government fault that worries me is out-of-control spending. I respect my family's budget and I expect the federal government to respect one, too. But it does not. A government that spends beyond its means is irresponsible and must be controlled. It's a complete tragedy that we are handing to our children a national debt of \$30 trillion. And printing money to cover debt and trillion dollar spending bills is simply outrageous. It's time we add any amendment to the Constitution that help rein in spending by the federal government.

With a federal government that disrespects money so flagrantly, I would appreciate an amendment that would limit federal income tax. At the time the Constitution, the Federal government did not impart a tax upon the citizens. US citizens are subject to unlimited taxation by an irresponsible bunch of power- grabbing bureaucrats, bureaucrats who cannot manage to balance a budget.

I am grateful to know the Constitution offers us this "parachute" and it's high time we use it to bring "We the People" back in touch with its own governance. As I understand it, a Convention of States can ultimately help the states to reclaim their sovereignty. Let's bring government closer to home.

Please vote in favor of sending HJR-3 to the House for a vote. Thank you for your service to the great state of Ohio, and for this opportunity to address the committee.

Jim Murphy
Canfield, Ohio