

**TESTIMONY
OF
VICKI L. GERACI**

**GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON HB 607

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

My name is Vicki Geraci. I live in Delaware County, House District 61. I serve as District Captain for Senate District 19 and House Districts 60, 61 and 98. More than 3,600 citizens in my three districts have signed the Convention of States petition asking for a national convention. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on HB 607, a topic of great significance to me. As a mother of 7, a grandmother of 9, soon to be 10 grandchildren, I fear for their future. Our federal government is spinning out of control, and the citizens have lost their voice.

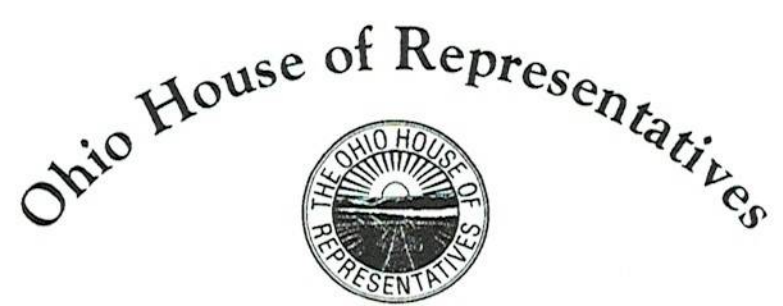
The founders foresaw a time when the federal government would exceed the 18 enumerated powers outlined in the constitution and provided a means to stop what we face today. This responsibility falls to you and sadly, this day is now. The integrity of the election process has come into question and Article V is our last remaining peaceful solution to address the many structural problems of our bloated Federal government.

In 1979 Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said,

*“The basic problem is simply that the Congress has become professionalized. It has an interest much higher than ever existed before in remaining in office. It has a bureaucracy that is serving it. It is much more subject to the power of individualized pressure groups as opposed to the unorganized feelings of the majority of the citizens. All of these reasons have created this feeling which is real and which I think has a proper basis in powerlessness. **One remedy for that, the one specifically outlined in the Constitution, is this amendment process which bypasses the Congress.** I would like to see that amendment process used just once....I think just using it once will exert an enormous influence upon both the Congress and the Supreme Court. I think we’ll get the parameters established of how you do it, what can be done, and I think after that, the Congress and the Court will behave much better.”*

HB607, together with the companion HJR 3 resolution, represents our last hope to be heard. Convention of States resolutions have passed with bi-partisan support in 13 out of 19 previously passed states. Even Ohio had bi-partisan sponsorship in 2015 and 2017. Representative Bill Patmon, a Democrat, from the 10th District in Cleveland said in his sponsor testimony (see attached), “The debt that our nation has incurred is astounding---\$19 trillion and climbing.” He also participated in the first ever simulated Convention of States in 2016. As I write this testimony Friday, June 21, 2024, the debt clock is nearing \$35 trillion and projected to be \$54 trillion by 2034. It increases by \$8.5 billion every day. This is unsustainable. HB607 and HJR3 should be among the most important votes of this committee and moved to a floor vote within this 135th General Assembly. As a citizen of Ohio and an advocate for the Convention of States, I urgently ask everyone on this committee to support HB607 and HJR3. It is time for a national dialogue to stop reckless spending in the federal government. Please do not postpone this critical decision any longer.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB607 and HJR3.



**State Representative Bill Patmon
Sponsor Testimony
HJR 2
March 7, 2017**

Hello Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present Sponsor Testimony on HJR 2, a resolution that will act as an application to the Congress of the United States for a Convention of States under Article V of the Constitution of the United States.

Article V of the U.S. Constitution describes the process whereby states may call a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution. In order for a Convention of States to be called at least two-thirds of all state legislatures must make applications on the same subject.

The debt that our nation has incurred is astounding---\$19 trillion and climbing. We are constantly reminded of Congress' inability to agree on a budget. If a Convention of States were to be called, a balanced budget amendment could be put forward for the states to discuss. After the states propose, debate, and vote upon the proposed amendments, they will be sent to the 50 states for ratification. Three-quarters of the states must agree for any of the proposed amendments to be ratified. We need to make the federal government more responsive to the people. Calling a Convention of States will demonstrate that the people will take action when necessary to steer our country back on the right course.

Again, thank you Chair Roegner and members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee.