

TESTIMONY OF VIRGINIA MORGAN
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 House Government Oversight Committee, I am Virginia Morgan, House District 12, and I'm a grassroots coordinator for Convention of States. Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of House Bill 607 today regarding procedures for appointing delegates to a convention of the states under Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

I have a limited few minutes to speak today and it's a fact I have many years of life experience on this earth and am honored to be here.

No one disputes that we live in a very divided society today. Like you, I've spoken with a lot of the grassroots in the past several years. People want peace and opportunity for their families, friends, and groups that together give meaning to life. They recognize our many problems but say they don't have the power to do anything about it. They are looking for leadership to provide solutions. Vacuums are always filled by some force of nature. I believe that Ohio and the other 49 sovereign state legislatures are our best hope to fill this void and begin to resolve these problems.

As this body debates and considers the rules for delegate selection, I understand an issue was raised previously with HB-607 during Sponsor testimony about the mix of party affiliation of selected delegates. Whatever their individual affiliations, I appeal to you to support the intentions of this bill which provides Ohio's delegation with a convention toolkit of common sense and willingness to find broad consensus. As we know, no proposed amendment will be ratified without broad bi-partisan support across the country. This requires bi-partisan input.

I come from a family that respected history, the good and the bad; our historical groups re-enacted pioneer history on the Ohio frontier, including re-enactors for the Native American perspective. I continue that tradition in my historical society today to educate those who follow me. My mother had a trivet on her kitchen wall that said 'Be gentle in your opinions until you have walked a mile in another person's moccasins.'

These are times of division, uncertainty, and a groundswell of belief that our country has big problems to solve. I think we already have the legislative excellence needed in Ohio and across the country. You in both parties are the statesmen and stateswomen of our times.

I ask of you only what I've asked of myself throughout my own life:

- Are these problems solvable?
- Can we bravely speak out to find common ground that has broad appeal?
- What are the areas of compromise?
- Are we willing to listen to each other's moccasin story?

Thank you.