

**TESTIMONY OF MYRL NISELY
PROPONENT FOR HB-607
OHIO HOUSE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
June 25, 2024**

Chairman Peterson, Vice-Chairman Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and Members of the House Government Oversight Committee:

As a grassroots volunteer with the Convention of States Action organization, I thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in favor of HB-607.

Article V of our Constitution was inserted into that document to provide citizens, through their state legislatures, a peaceful means of taking corrective action when the Federal government becomes detrimental to our country. The article intentionally opens the possibility of representatives of all states gathering for the purpose of proposing and negotiating constitutional amendments without input or veto power from Congress or other federal agencies. Each amendment so produced would require ratification by at least 38 of our 50 states, so obviously must have the approval of a great majority of Americans to have any hope of ratification.

Opponents against a convention have repeatedly alleged the possibility of the convention being uncontrolled and commandeered by delegates with motives contrary to the purposes for which the convention was called.

There have been two simulated conventions sponsored by the Convention of States Action, one in 2016 and again in 2023. The delegates to both, a majority of whom were actual state legislators, quite ardently worked within the rules of order and within the stated subjects. In America's history numerous other state conventions have also shown adherence to orderly negotiations. Whether or not these examples are convincing, HB-607 will help bolster the integrity of a future convention. It will give clear guidelines on what Ohio delegates are allowed to do by carefully defining delegate qualifications, expectations, and punishments for transgressing the guidelines. Thus, HB-607 gives assurance to all of us in Ohio that representatives we send to the convention can be counted on to seriously work on realistic ways of reining in federal overreach in three areas: Imposing Fiscal Restraints on the Federal Government, Limiting the Power and Jurisdiction of the Federal Government, and setting Term Limits for Congress and all Federal Offices.

Thank you.