

**TESTIMONY OF DIANA TELLES  
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 four-year Convention of States volunteer and believer in states' rights and Article V, I submit this testimony in favor of HB-607. I thank you for the opportunity.

As momentum for a state convention increases across the country, the need to provide pragmatic guidelines to the state of Ohio is imperative. HB-607 serves as an extensive instructional companion to any Article V resolution passed by the Ohio legislature. The bill exists independent of any specific Article V effort or political party, articulating very specifically the qualifications for a delegate/delegation sent by the Ohio legislature to any state amending convention under the authority of Article V of the US Constitution.

HB-607 provides the comprehensive guidance necessary for the Ohio legislature to effectively exercise its Constitutional right to participate in a state convention where amendments may be proposed (not ratified). The guardrails, as guaranteed by the passage HB-607, will reassure members of the Ohio legislature as well as all Ohioans that any state amending convention will be a safe, governable event, never untethered from the authority of the Ohio legislature.

In studying HB-607, one can be certain that representing Ohio at a state amending convention is a serious business. In addition to outlining specific parts of the US Constitution that absolutely cannot be addressed in convention, HB-607 goes so far as to assure a third-degree felony for offenders of the final section of the bill. Complete understanding of the rules is secured for each delegate by a written oath as outlined in the legislation.

Additionally, HB-607 offers logical, straightforward standards for qualifying Ohio's delegates such as minimum age, federal appointment status, and Ohio residency standing among several others.

As state legislators, you took an oath to support the US Constitution. Ohio's passage of HB-607 will provide smart and effective legislation ensuring Ohio's support and defense of this precious document. Please pass HB-607 out of this committee and to the House floor for a full vote.

Thank you so much.