

Testimony to the OCMC June 8th 2017

Thank you for allowing my testimony today, I'll be brief.

My name is Tim Boggs and I have been a lifelong resident of Columbus. I am not a professional politician, lawyer, nor am I much involved in local politics. I work in a cell phone store and had to get the day off to be here before you. I suppose the best way to describe myself is as a concerned citizen.

After 9/11 I dropped out of college to join the military. I did so out of a sense of patriotic duty. I thought I would be fighting for freedom and liberty. I spent 8 years in the Army, 2 of which were in Iraq. Since that time I've done some reflection on the naiveté I had as an eager teenager ready to fight for my country. Among much bigger questions about our war in the Middle East I've started to question what the results of what I was fighting for looked like on the local level.

While the men and women of the armed services are overseas fighting for their country, it seems to me that our politicians are back home consolidating more and more power for themselves. The considerations about the initiative process in Ohio before us now are case in point.

I've never claimed to be the brightest guy, nor do I have anywhere close to the learning of the other people that have testified here today, but it does seem clear enough to a regular citizen like me that what this commission is doing is attempting to set up two different laws: one for politicians and one for citizens. I don't see how even the most seasoned of politicians could talk their way around that fact.

What this proposal will do is make it harder for citizens to have their voice heard and to hold their elected officials responsible. I suppose for those in power that sounds like a great result. If that is the result you are after you should ignore the testimony of those who are against this proposal. But I will caution you before doing so-regular citizens like me are taking note, we are spreading the message, and we are growing upset.

You have the opportunity to right a wrong by sending the proposed changes to the initiated amendment process back to the committee and instructing them how to fix it so that the double standards are removed, or you can make Ohio a warning to liberty-loving citizens across the country. They will look to Ohio and see what it looks like for citizens to have their rights further eroded by elected officials who derive their power for governing from The People.

Thank you for your time today.

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