

Member Day Testimony Before the House Judiciary Committee  
Rep. Jodey C. Arrington  
November 3, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Jordan and Ranking Member Nadler, for holding this Member Day today. I appreciate the opportunity to share my priorities with you for the record.

Until his last breath, Captain David Dorn dedicated his life to serving his community and protecting his fellow man. He was tragically killed during the violent riots in summer 2020, but his selflessness and determination to serve must not be forgotten, and violent mobs must not be tolerated. I ask for support of my David Dorn Act of 2023, which honors brave law enforcement officers like David Dorn and holds rioters accountable. This legislation doubles the maximum imprisonment for rioting from five years to ten and establishes a mandatory fine of \$1,000. I hope you join me in support in honor of Captain David Dorn who is sadly no longer with us today.

Officer Patrick Underwood, a federal law enforcement officer who also dedicated his life to serving others, was shot dead in a drive-by shooting in Oakland in 2020 while on duty outside a federal courthouse. Officer Underwood and many federal officers just like him are the thin blue line separating safety from danger and order from chaos. They risk their lives every day to protect and serve our families and neighbors. We must be certain that criminal opportunists purposefully attacking those who maintain civil order know that violence toward any federal law enforcement officer will not be tolerated. That is why I ask for your support in my Patrick Underwood Act of 2023, which increases the penalties for assault on a federal officer by heightening the fines and establishing mandatory imprisonment for assault with a deadly weapon.

Finally, Article V of the U.S. Constitution says Congress shall call a convention for proposing amendments when two-thirds of states have filed applications for a Convention—a clear, binding constitutional duty. In November 1979, Nevada became the 34th state to pass legislation calling for a Convention of States to propose amendments to the Constitution. Of these 34, most state applications were for single-issue fiscal responsibility amendments, and others were for “plenaries”—a convention on any subject. Although Nevada was significant in crossing the 2/3 threshold to trigger the constitutional mandate, no congressional action has been taken. The time has come to right this wrong.

My bill, H.Con.Res. 24, would call an Article V Convention for proposing a fiscal responsibility amendment to the Constitution to be set, unless the House Clerk determines there have never been two-thirds of states with active applications. With over \$33 trillion in federal debt and a debt-to-GDP ratio almost as high as the record set at the end of World War II, there has never been a greater need for a constitutional amendment holding the federal government accountable for fiscal responsibility.

Thank you again, Chairman Jordan and Ranking Member Nadler, for giving Members the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to working with you to move these bills forward.