

2 March 2020

From: Patric S. Enright

To: Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, Maryland House of Delegates

Subject: Support for House Joint Resolution-10 (HJR-10) (2020)

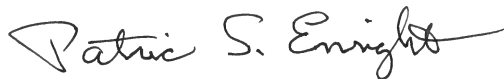
Yet again, I find myself compelled to address this session's version of the petition to Congress addressing, mainly, regulations concerning control of contributions and expenditures intended to influence elections. I totally support this effort to convene an Article V Amendments Convention for the purposes stated in HJR-10.

My purpose today is to help dispel the fears, however unfounded, that the call for an Amendments Convention is the same as calling for a Constitutional Convention. A successful convening of the latter is absolutely unnecessary, and could prove to be catastrophic. The convening of the former to introduce a proposed amendment to address the issues articulated in HJR-10 is a good procedure. Otherwise, why would this option be included in our Constitution by the framers? In addition, the proposition of such an amendment has to go through a lengthy process of presentation and ratification before it becomes part of our Constitution. The restrictions, protections, and protocols set forth in HJR-10 to focus such a Convention on a narrow and singular topic, I believe, are necessary and sufficient to constrain Maryland's participation in such a Convention.

I urge you to quell any fears, presented by naysayers, of an out-of-control Convention by considering the statement of one of our greatest presidents in his first inaugural address. President Abraham Lincoln, a courageous, resolute and desperate man in his time preferred the method of an Amendments Convention, under Article V of the Constitution as opposed to Congressional proposition. He was not afraid to prefer and propose such a solution and neither should this Committee.

Take heart and please render a favorable report for HJR-10 and support its passage by the House.

Respectfully submitted,



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