

March 1, 2022  
Elliott M Weakley  
43685 Lifelong Landing Lane Hollywood, MD 20636

**Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- House Joint Resolution concerning -  
United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on  
Federal Power**

Rules and Executive Nominations

Dear Committee Chair, Delegate Anne Healey, and Committee Members,

Hello, I am Elliott Weakley. I am in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and live in Hollywood, Maryland. But I have not always lived here.

My dad is in the military and we used to move around a lot. In fact, I lived in 4 different states by the time I was 5.

We don't move much anymore, but when we did – it was kind of hard. When I was little most of the time it was just me and my mom – moving away from friends, having to spend birthdays apart, and missing my dad was not easy. They say that being a military kid makes you tough, and I guess I can see that, but I'm grateful that we're here in Maryland and my dad doesn't deploy.

I've learned about American government in school and just wrote an essay about federalism for the Convention of States Maryland essay contest. Learning about federalism was interesting. Our government was designed to split power between branches of government as well as levels of government. This was done to make sure that no one person became too powerful and so states were able to make decisions based with their people.

Unfortunately, we've kind of messed it up. Right now, the federal government and the President are making a lot of decisions that impact a lot of people in really bad ways.

My parents don't want me to worry about this, but I know my dad is dedicated to fighting for our freedoms. He's a Marine and his job is to protect the Constitution. The first amendment of the Constitution protects the right to practice your religion, and that right shouldn't be taken away from you because you're in the military and that seems to be what is happening now.

My parents also don't want me to worry about what's happening with Ukraine, but that's hard, too. My family is Ukrainian and my uncle Brett is actually stationed in Germany. He has an important job in the Army, deployed A LOT to Afghanistan, and I worry about him alot.

Until this summer, America was at war my entire life. I don't want my friends, family, and I to go through it all again.

I'm testifying today because I know you're supposed to listen to me. I learned about the

Convention of States when I learned about federalism, and that it will help more people get their ideas out there – and I think that having people have more say in government is a good thing!

My dad always tells us “team work makes the dream work” and I think we need to work together as a team to help our country and our people. Thank you.