

5 March 2020

From: Patric S. Enright

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, Maryland Senate

Subject: Support for Senate Joint Resolution-2 (SJR-2) (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 SJR-2.

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 SJR-2 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 SJR-2 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 SJR-2 and support its passage by the Senate.

Respectfully submitted,



Patric S. Enright

2052 Huntwood Drive
Gambrills, Maryland 21054-2033
(H) 410-721-2285
E-mail: nokplz@aol.com