



CONVENTION *of* STATES ACTION MARYLAND

March 2, 2020

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Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

Dear Madam Chairman,

Good Afternoon. My name is Bob Betz and I have been a Marylander since 1984. I am also a federal employee and have been for those same 36 years. I am proud of the work I do, the organization I work for, and the people I work with.

I am also ashamed to be associated with that same federal government because it is crushing the life out Maryland with intrusive and oppressive regulations it has no business issuing. The federal government is out of control and MUST be reined in.

Consider the cannabis industry and access to medical marijuana. Marylanders want both and we have gotten both, but in violation of federal law. Why is that? Why did we ever need permission from the federal government to bring those products and services to our state?

Then think about education, anything about education. What our kids eat for lunch, what we teach them about history, or how they solve algebra problems. The federal government regulates all those things. That means that Wisconsin, Arizona, Nevada and all the other states get a say in what happens in Maryland schools. I find that outrageous and offensive.

We do not need anyone's permission to boot broccoli out of school, or manage cancer patients' nausea with marijuana. We, Marylanders, decide those things for ourselves, not some Senator from South Dakota.

The Convention of States is the tool that can push the federal government out of Maryland's business and bring control of Maryland back to Maryland. Please, I urge you, recommend the HJ0011 resolution to full House so they can consider it and make a decision about Maryland, for Maryland, as we Marylanders always intended them to do.

Thank you all.

Sincerely, Robert Betz