



CONVENTION *of* STATES ACTION MARYLAND

March 2, 2020

Dennis Thomas
District Captain
3695 Spring Hollow Drive
Frederick, Maryland 21704

Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

Dear Madam Chairman,

I am a ten-year Navy Submarine veteran and I live in and run a small service business in District 4. I became interested in COS primarily because I was concerned about the Federal debt and the economic freedom of my children. I am now a District Captain in Districts 1-4. My primary goal in this role is to educate citizens on the Article V process, and what we are trying to accomplish through it. This Nation was founded on self-governance and nothing embodies **We the People** more than a Convention of States. I want all Americans to know that the Convention of States process is there for us, to address any issue we are concerned about.

In my role, I volunteered at many events over the summer, and I visited every political booth. Everyone I met seemed to agree that term limits were needed. Their political affiliation did not matter. This is not just the case here in Maryland either. Support for term limits on Congress (82% of Americans in favor of Term Limits on Congress—McLaughlin & Assoc. January 2020) across the country has overwhelming support. Americans do not want an aristocracy of career politicians whose primary goal seems to be their personal enrichment by serving special interests. Americans want fresh ideas, but with the re-election rate of incumbents at around 90% this is next to impossible. Incumbents get the vast majority of their party's money and you all know how hard it is to win an election without money. Term limits could fix this. It would also open spots in Congress for you. We build relationships with our State legislators and you know our concerns.

Our resolution does not just put term limits for Congress on the table. It also adds term limits for federal officials to the discussion. This includes Federal and Supreme Court Justices (70% of Americans in favor of Term Limits on Supreme Court (Reuters/Ipsos, July 2019.) We need turnover here as well. This has become another form of aristocracy that is frequently politicized when it should be serving justice blindly. Judges are no better than any of us. They are not perfect people. They are corruptible just like anyone else in a position of power. Term limits would help put an end to the insanity that ensues whenever a Supreme Court Justice is nominated. A nomination would hopefully no longer be a perceived doomsday scenario by either party. The vast majority of folks I have spoken to, on all political sides, also support term limits on judges.

There are no absolutes on how any of this should be done. We have no specific amendments proposed. A Convention of States is really nothing more than a democratic discussion to PROPOSE amendments. Something may or may not come out of it, depending on what is proposed and how much support there is for those ideas. The people overwhelmingly want to have this discussion. Congress and the judiciary have no incentive to limit themselves. Fortunately, we have a democratic way to do it without their input. Thank you for your time and God bless America.

Sincerely, Dennis Thomas