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## CONVENTION *of* STATES ACTION MARYLAND

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Rules and Executive Nomination Committee, Maryland House of Delegates

Dear Madam Chairwoman,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Gayle McCowin and I am a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the US Army. My lifelong service to the US Constitution is the motive behind my speaking to you today.

For more than 23 years, I took an oath to the Constitution and there are no better stewards of the Constitution than those who serve in the military ranks. Service members truly understand the meaning of service to something bigger than themselves.

This virtue is lost on career politicians serving in Washington. When politicians are elected, they go to Washington with the greater good of their constituents in mind, but over time, forget who they are serving and there is no doubt that citizen's confidence in Congress has been on a rapid decline.

The federal government has become much larger than our founding fathers intended. New committees, new commissions, new regulations, new policies, and new agencies are being started on a regular basis. With each new initiative comes the need for money while creating new solutions to old problems, with my tax dollars going towards federal solutions, when many of these problems could and probably should be solved at the state and local level. Why wouldn't we want Maryland dollars going towards Maryland solutions?

During the past 10 years there has been a paradigm shift towards infringement on Constitutional rights to include surveillance of citizens, big government spending, censorship of information and free speech by Big Tech. This erosion devalues the Constitution. If We the People can't get our elected officials to work on our behalf, nor hold them accountable, the check and balance answer is Article V. Article V will return sovereignty to the States, and to the people by giving us the power to hold the branches of government accountable. As a member and leading participant in the Convention of States, Maryland will have the ability to address limitations on out of control Federal overreach. This is a Constitutional solution to a Constitutional problem.

We all want a bright future for the generations we leave behind. I hope that you see this as something that will give this State more power and give it a louder voice through the use of the convention.

Thank you and Respectfully, Gayle McCowin