



# CONVENTION of STATES ACTION MARYLAND

March 2, 2021

Jacob Goldberg  
District Captain (MD-22)  
4806 Nicholson St.  
Riverdale, MD 20737

Rules and Executive Nominations Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates

Dear Madam Chairman,

My name is Jacob Goldberg and I am a lifelong Marylander. I currently live in Riverdale Park with my wife Sarah (and in a few short months, our child!). I have worked as a social studies teacher and data administrator in Prince George's County Public Schools for almost a decade. As a history teacher by trade, seeing how the federal government has strayed so far from the original intent of the founders frustrates me to no end. It is precisely for that reason that Article V was written to allow for you, our state legislators, to call a Convention of States as a mechanism for amending our constitution to fix a government that is not meeting the needs of our nation, just like your predecessors did over two hundred years ago.

There are some who argue that holding a Convention of States is a dangerous proposition and that it will result in unintended changes to the Constitution that could very well take away the rights of citizens. This line of thinking couldn't be further from the truth since the whole nature of ratification process is designed to prevent this, as 38 states would need to approve any amendment decided on by the convention. Aside from that, the design of HJ0006 is such that it sets parameters for what the Convention will discuss to three unambiguous topics: limiting federal overreach, a balanced federal budget and term limits, not anything under the sun.

A common fear tactic used by folks on both sides of the aisle who do not support a Convention of States, is to claim that at our original Constitutional Convention in 1787, was a "runaway convention." The claim is that the delegates at the convention were instructed by Congress under the Articles of Confederation to hold a convention to alter/amend the Articles of Confederation and that the representatives at that convention instead created an entirely new system of government, thus completely ignoring their mandate. This is incorrect, for two specific reasons. First of all, the government under the Articles of Confederation did not call for the constitutional convention and thus provided no mandate. The states who did call for the convention, intentionally phrased their resolution in such a way that allowed the folks at the convention to do what needed to be done, just as I believe HJ0006 does.

As I've discussed many times in the first few weeks of my LSN Government course, the whole reason that we needed that Constitutional Convention in 1787 was that the legislature set up in the Articles of Confederation was so weak, that they could really only make recommendations to the states, not binding legislation like today's Congress. The impetus for the Constitutional Convention was actually a small meeting in a place called Mann's Tavern, just a few blocks from your seats in the Maryland State House. It was there that delegations from several states met to discuss how to improve the federal government. Those delegates decided that we needed a proper Constitutional Convention, inclusive of all states to address the issue of a failing federal government. The government under the Articles of Confederation gave its token blessing to this endeavor, suggesting that the goal was to "solely amend the articles." However, this symbolic blessing wasn't enough to call the convention, only the state legislatures could do that, which they eventually did, by passing resolutions, much like the one I am asking you to support today.



---

## CONVENTION *of* STATES ACTION MARYLAND

---

So that leads me to the wording of those state resolutions and what the delegates at the Constitutional Convention were truly tasked with. Here is the mandate, verbatim from words that were in the resolutions passed by the participant states in the Constitutional Convention of 1787; “to render the constitution of the federal government adequate for the exigencies of the Union.”

In short, they were tasked with making the blueprint for the federal government work and so they did. Those delegates stuck to their mandate and did a pretty darn good job creating a constitutional framework that while not perfect, has served us well for generations. Today, we have a similar situation, we the people are dissatisfied with the federal government and the federal government cannot solve the problem themselves. That is why I am here, playing hooky from school and asking you to do what those that came before you did, support HJ0006 and call a Convention of States.

Thank you for your time, consideration and all that you do in representing me and the citizens of Maryland.

Best Wishes,  
Jacob Goldberg