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Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- Senate Joint Resolution concerning -United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Dear Committee Chair, the Honorable Senator Paul Pinsky, and EHEA Committee Members,

Hello, I am Elliott Weakley. I am in 6th grade and live in Hollywood, Maryland. But I have not always lived here.

My dad is in the military and we used to move around a lot. In fact, I lived in 4 different states by the time I was 5.

We don't have to move around much anymore, but when we did – it was kind of hard. When I was little most of the time it was just me and my mom – moving away from friends, having to spend birthdays apart, and missing my dad was not easy. They say that being a military kid makes you tough, and I guess I can see that, but I'm just grateful that we're here in Maryland and my dad doesn't deploy.

I've learned about American government in school and just wrote an essay about federalism for the Convention of States Maryland essay contest. Learning about federalism was interesting. Our government was designed to split power between branches of government as well as levels of government. This was done to make sure that no one person became too powerful and so states were able to make decisions based with their people.

Unfortunately, we've kind of messed it up. Right now, the federal government and the President are making a lot of decisions that impact a lot of people in really bad ways.

My parents don't want me to worry about this, but I know my dad is currently fighting taking the vaccine. He's a Marine and his job is to protect the Constitution. The first amendment of the Constitution protects the right to practice your religion, and that right shouldn't be taken away from you because you're in the military.

My parents also don't want me to worry about what's happening with Ukraine, but that's hard, too. My family is Ukrainian and my aunt and uncle are actually stationed in Germany. He's got an important job in the Army and deployed A LOT to Afghanistan, and I worry about him having to go back to war.

Until this summer, America was at war my entire life. I don't want my friends, family, and I to go through it all again.

I'm testifying today because I know you're supposed to listen to me. I learned about the Convention of States when I learned about federalism, and that it will help more people get their ideas out there – and I think that having people have more say in government is a good thing!

My dad always tells us “team work makes the dream work” and I think we need to work together as a team to help our country and our people. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ellie Weakley