

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- Senate Joint Resolution 8 concerning -United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

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

My name is Jennifer Brown and I am a political science instructor, Convention of States volunteer and supporter of SJ8. In one year, I have watched a dramatic shift in political ideology among my students. Once supporters of centralized federalism, many have shifted their views. I listen to stories of job loss due to vaccine mandates or business shutdowns. I hear about the cost of gas, food and retail items; and the effect it has on students working and attending school simultaneously.

In 2018 this body passed legislation that funds tuition at state community colleges, but if federal policies force prices so high that students have to choose work over school, what benefit is funding that will never be used? Your work for the citizens of Maryland is erased by poor policy decisions and federal overreach. Those same students are worried about completing degrees in fields where they can no longer work. They ask what happened to their “right” to work and to make their own choices.

Students are surprisingly unified on this topic, regardless of party affiliation. What they see happening at the federal level is awakening them. They are paying attention and are anxious for their opportunity to vote. They don’t want the United States to become a nation where freedom is trampled and economic prosperity ceases.

Like my students, I want to see something done to curtail federal overreach. As a former legislative aide, here in Annapolis, I have seen the process work. Each of you are far more inclined to listen to your constituents than any federal representative. All powers not specifically granted to the federal government are left to you or to the people. As Maryland representatives you have the jurisdiction and the obligation to exercise those powers.

That is why I want you to support SJ8. This convention is vital to restoring the proper balance of federalism. Ultimately, your ability to represent your constituents depends on how you exercise your federal oversight using Article V. Article V allows you to play a pivotal role in calling for a convention of states to pass comprehensive amendments limiting the power and scope of the federal government, thus returning power to the states where it belongs.

It is this delicate balance that secures freedom for you, for me, and for all of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Deems Brown