

**Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- Senate Joint Resolution (SJ0008)  
concerning - United States Constitution – Amendments Convention –  
Limitations on Federal Power**

Maryland Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

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

The United States of America is at a crossroads right now. The Land of Opportunity, where millions of people from across the planet have sacrificed life and limb to reach our shores is in danger of becoming a distant memory. These millions have come here and continue to come here because this great nation represents freedom and equal opportunity. Our founding document, the US Constitution guaranteed the freedoms that we now take for granted and will soon lose if we do not take immediate action. We are losing our freedoms to a bloated and self-absorbed Federal government and Washington DC establishment who want to centralize more power and wealth amongst its own elite class.

This centralization of power and wealth comes at the expense of the people of the United States, and you, the state legislators. Through the 10th amendment to the US Constitution, the Maryland state legislature, as well as the state legislatures of the other 49 states, are given all of the power that is not specifically given to the federal government. However, the Washington DC establishment continues to absorb more and more power through its limitless spending and limitless bureaucratic growth and the American people have become enslaved to the Washington politicians and DC swamp. The Convention of States organization stands to peacefully and Constitutionally stop this sometimes insidious but often overt power grab by the Washington establishment.

The Convention of States would like to amend the US constitution through Article V to limit the power of the Federal Government and restore it to the state legislatures. As the organization grows, and American citizens are awakening and realizing the brilliance of our founding fathers. They realized a tyrannical federal government would never amend the US Constitution to limit its own power. Therefore, the founders included the Convention of States clause in Article V of the US Constitution for this reason, and for this reason alone.

Unfortunately, there is an uphill battle to face off against the Goliath that the DC establishment has become. With overwhelming forces and finances, it counts every single institution and industry as an ally who'll fight tooth and nail to maintain its power and the status quo. The forces include the US Congress, extends to both political party machines, and includes the entire federal bureaucracy, higher education, K-12 education, Hollywood, the media, any foreign nation receiving US financial aid, and literally every industry that you can think of because they all have an interest group with lobbyists. There are only two groups missing from this list: the American people and the State Legislatures.

The main attack on the Convention of States effort has been to spread fear that there will be a "runaway convention" and the entire US Constitution will be re-written. This fear is completely unfounded. The Constitution itself states any amendment must be ratified by three fourths of the states, meaning only 13 state legislatures can derail any proposed amendment, let alone an entire rewrite of the US Constitution. It's actually much easier to stop a "runaway" convention than it is to build the necessary numbers to hold the convention itself. Our founders designed it this way on purpose.

Additionally, media hit pieces that attempt discredit the Convention of States are becoming more frequent. They call into question the content of character of its people and attempt to associate them with various unsavory groups and movements. None of it is true. The Convention of States is diverse and inclusive and does not see color, race, religion, sexual preference, nor political party. The people of the Convention of States see only red, white and blue.

Despite these attacks, the Convention of States Organization continues to grow at a rapid pace, with over 2.2 million grass-roots supporters nationally and over 28,000 across MD. It stands peacefully and Constitutionally to stop the power grab by the Washington establishment. Through the tool gifted to us in the Constitution by our founding fathers, the American people and the state legislatures can reign in the power of the federal government and restore it to the people and to the states where it was meant to be. Please help save America and support SJ8.

Sincerely,  
Michael Colburn  
Concerned Maryland Resident  
25 Year USAF Veteran