

Cesare Vodopia FINAL COS Testimony SENATE in favor

Uploaded by: Cesare Vodopia

Position: FAV

Written Testimony in **SUPPORT of Senate Joint Resolution SJ0002**, concerning -United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

Education, Energy & the Environment Committee

By Cesare Vodopia

My name is Cesare Vodopia and I live in District 13. Our country will turn 247 years old this year. That's just a little over four of my lifetimes. This is still a young country. It is an experiment in self-governance. Because of the growing size and depth of the federal government, I fear we may be in the *late* stages of an *unsuccessful* experiment rather than the early stages of a successful one.

As a civil libertarian, the unconstitutional overreach of the federal government scares me. As a fiscal conservative, the reckless spending scares me. Finally, it scares me to see the federal government unconstitutionally usurping powers that belong to the States. Our founders gave us Article V as a way to bypass the Congress to amend our Constitution, because they knew there would probably come a time when the people would need to constrain the federal government. The three items in this resolution, to be discussed at a national convention, provide a framework for constraint.

I worry about what the future holds for my children and grandchildren and how the dysfunction in Washington is going to affect them. It is my hope that members of this committee vote favorable on this joint resolution so it can be debated on the Senate floor, and so future generations do not have to live through the demise of this Republic and witness the failure of the American experiment in self-governance.

The threats we face because of our runaway federal government apply equally to all, whether they lean left or to the right. This deserves debate and serious consideration. A Convention of States, to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution, will provide “We the People” the ability to constrain the Federal Government. Please support passing SJ0001 to the floor for debate so the full Senate has the opportunity to vote up or down on this joint resolution, and so the Maryland Legislature might join other States to utilize the “Article V tool” our Founders gave us to ensure the American Experiment in self-governance is a success. Thank you.

Testimony respectfully submitted by,
Cesare Vodopia

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Chengbo Sun Testimony in favor of SJ1 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Chengbo Sun

Position: FAV

Testimony in Favor of SJ0001, Convention of States by Chengbo Sun.

Ladies and Gentleman,

It is my privilege to speak in front of you. My name is Chengbo Sun. I am from China.

When I first came, I was like a bird out of the cage. This land is like an image of Heaven to me. But because of where I came from, I recognized that communism is coming here.

Three years ago, the almost-forgotten feeling of suffocating struck me hard, when we were instructed what we can say and how we think. I was told Freedom of speech was protected here, but now, so much censorship. So many decisions are made by Washington DC, instead of our state.

I am hyper alert of freedoms suddenly disappearing. My friends who grew up in the US have not realized it IS a big deal. They ask, what does it have to do with me? I have many examples of things happening right here that frighten me, and perhaps should frighten you as well.

Sharing information freely used to be the greatest freedom. Now many things are fact checked. A "Fact check department"? That sounds like the Soviet Union Ministry of Truth! Then whose truth is THAT truth? Who is in charge?

I love this country. When I look around at the world, I see that our country is the last land of peace and freedom. She is worthy to fight for. She is the Light to the people who have lost their freedoms. This will go away if our government is not reigned in.

If you pass this resolution, you will have a hand in taking back the power the federal government has taken away from Maryland – a convention to talk about this can do so much good.

A great government welcomes the ideas of its people. Therefore, I urge you to pass this resolution to the floor for debate. Thank you.

230313-SJ0001-US-Constituion-amendments.pdf

Uploaded by: Christine Hunt

Position: FAV

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers
1014 Dockser Drive
Crownsville, MD 21032

March 13, 2023

Maryland General Assembly
Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment
Annapolis, MD

RE: SJ0001 - United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

Dear Senators,

We support SJ0001 and respectfully request that you vote for it.

The Federal Government has been overreaching its power for some time and we support this Amendments convention to explore how the U.S. Constitution can be modified to reign in the out-of-control spending, create term limits and the other resolutions contained in this bill.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers

Cody White testimony in favor of SJ1 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Cody Tristan White

Position: FAV

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Joint Resolution SJ1. concerning -United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power
House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

March 8, 2023

Cody White
41151 Glenwood Ln.
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Dear Committee Chair, the Honorable Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members,

My name is Cody White, I am Eleven years old, and a homeschooled 7th grader from Mechanicsville, MD.

“Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” This phrase came from Lord Acton when he sent a letter to Bishop Creighton in 1887, and the sentiment holds true today.

History has shown us that when people stay in power for too long, they become corrupted by it. They forget where they came from and the people who elected them.

Currently, there are members of Congress who have held their jobs for more than 40 years! Honestly, what regular job could they have had? What could they know about the middle class? The poor? They’ve not had to work 2-3 jobs to make ends meet, they don’t have to worry about the price of eggs or how they’re going to feed their families.

Many members of Congress have been in the government for so long that they are totally disconnected from most of America. How are they representing their constituents if they don’t understand them? How can we say we are a representative government if our elected officials don’t actually represent the people they serve?

When the Prime Minister of New Zealand stepped down a few weeks ago she said, “...I am leaving because with such a privileged role, comes responsibility, the responsibility to know when you are the right person to lead, and also when you are not.” I wish more people in Congress were like her.

Term limits are necessary for prosperity. President Eisenhower said, “What is good for the President might very well be good for the Congress” and Americans agreed with him.

I believe that representatives will better represent when we limit how long they can represent us. The founders wanted a truly representative government, so they made it possible for the People to call a Convention of States through their States. This is our chance to make this happen.

This joint resolution includes a provision to discuss and enact an amendment that would address term limits and solve this problem. Please support HJ0002. Thank you very much!

Testimony in favor of SJ0001 by Daniela Dorazio. .

Uploaded by: Daniela D'Orazio

Position: FAV

Testimony in favor of SJ0001 by Daniela Dorazio.

My name is Daniela Dorazio. I grew up in Romania under communist rule and I am a survivor of child abuse. At age 14 I asked a Romanian orphanage to take me in, hoping that a good American parent would adopt me. My plea was rejected because I had a mother. However, my “mother” locked me inside our apartment and constantly tortured me with beatings and electrocution as a punishment for socializing and making friends.

Fast forward 35 years and Federal, State, and Local governments/institutions took our freedom away by locking all of us up during Covid. To socialize we had to wear a mask and get a shot. During Covid years, the governments became my mother on steroids and my child’s health and even life and freedom is in serious danger.

I asked my mother why she abused me. She said that she raised me the same as she was raised and did nothing wrong. Child abuse is a cycle that is very difficult to break, but I am proud that I was able to with my child!

I think that we are slowly being programmed like my mother was over time to accept authoritarian rule. It is harder to see when it comes little by little. I lived this life and know what is ahead. I see these things that happened in Romanian government also now happening here.

Returning power to the states by the use of Article 5 will help give people a voice from their states again. Returning power to the states will allow citizens to live in an area that reflects their ideals and not only the federal government’s ideals.

Please break this cycle and hear us in Maryland. Please forward this to the debate stage.

Thank you,

Daniela D’Orazio

D Hafer Senate Testimony in favor of SJ1 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: David Hafer

Position: FAV

Article V Testimony

Good afternoon,

My name is Dave Hafer and I am the District 29 Captain for the Convention of States. I represent approximately 1700 Convention of States supporters.

For more than 35 years, I served as a Marine and as a civilian in the Federal Government. I have a lot of experience in the Department of Defense, the Department of State and the Intelligence Community.

I have long been concerned over how the Federal Government spends the tax payer's money. It always seems that when budgeting we look to "spend more so we can get more".

As a manager, I would look for ways to spend the taxpayer's money wisely. My proposals to cut funds, programs and positions typically fell on deaf ears. The usual refrain was "what if we need these in the future?" – Spending more to get more.

Every year, we were given "end of the year money". So, we would be directed to take unnecessary overseas trips, for unnecessary purposes to unnecessary locations. This is just one of the many examples of wasteful Federal spending I witnessed during my long career.

Over time it became clear to me that the Federal Government will not restrain itself. Now, the Federal debt is over \$31 trillion. The Federal Government has spent and grown far beyond what our Founders had ever intended. They would be astounded and dismayed at the size and scope of the Federal Government today. However, in their incredible wisdom and foresight, they anticipated that this could happen. They left an escape clause. It is called Article V of the US Constitution. A Convention of States.

Please help us put an end to excessive spending. Americans don't want it and can't afford it. A Convention of States will allow participants to discuss ways to address overspending and debt, which requires discussion by all states. Please support Resolution **SJ1** so it can proceed to the Senate Floor for debate so Maryland will have a voice in this process. Thank you

Elliot Weakly testimony in favor of SJ1 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Elliott Weakley

Position: FAV

Hello, I am Elliott Weakley. I am in 7th grade and live in Hollywood, Maryland. This is my second time testifying before you all, and I am happy to be here, exercising my right to be heard as a citizen of the United States.

Last year I wrote my testimony and delivered it here where I discussed learning about the role of federalism in our government, and how important it is to have a division of power between branches as well as levels of government. I learned about the power of my voice, and the need for citizens to be actively involved in working with legislators.

I talked about how things have gone off track, but that our founding fathers wrote a Hail Mary, buried in Article V, allowing for states to reign in the federal government. *This* is the Convention of States.

Now, I know discussing the founders isn't the most popular thing to do in this day and age, but I would argue that every single person in this room lives the life they live because of those 55 men, especially the 39 who signed our Constitution.

Every citizen in this great nation, regardless of who they are, has a say in how things go. We are represented by – YOU – *represented* in what should be your role as servant leaders.

I was disappointed last year and confused about how you could hear about something like this and not try to understand it better. I was frustrated when this committee didn't even vote on the resolution...

More than 30,000 of your constituents have very plainly asked for you to consider this, and as representatives it is your duty to deliberate and then say whether or not you will pass this to the floor.

My ask is simple this year, please vote on this resolution in committee, so we know whether or not you as our elected officials are interested in actually representing us.

Thank you.

Redfern Senate testimony in favor of SJ1 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Elwin Redfern

Position: FAV

Witness Testimony in Annapolis, March, 2023
Maryland Senate (SJ 0001)
By Cantor Elwin Redfern

My name is Cantor Elwin Redfern from Silver Spring, and I have lived in Maryland for 32 years, and a second generation American. I am a professional Cantor, and have been a prayer leader in traditional Jewish synagogues in Annapolis, Baltimore, and Delaware.

I am here today as part of the Convention of States to ask you, respectfully and humbly, to approve our (SJ 0001) resolution today. We just want the Resolution discussed and debated for the first time in the Senate during this year's legislative session.

I have supported Convention of States because for at least ten years now I feel there is too much federal authority in every person's daily life in America. As an Election Judge in Montgomery County for twenty years I have been very interested in our county government and legislative matters in Annapolis.

President Abraham Lincoln said: "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

I am not sure that our Federal government wants this anymore. The Federal government is taking away your power as a State Government and this is alarming to me.

There are now nineteen states that have already approved a Convention of States. Thirty-three states committees have passed the COS Resolution, including the State of Massachusetts. Four more states are close to passing this week.

If the Maryland legislature passes the Convention of States Resolution entirely, and becomes a supporter, Maryland will have more freedom and liberty to run our state as President Lincoln asked because they will be participating in helping make the choices now made at the federal level related to budgeting, the scope of the federal government and how long legislators serve the states---- all through this convention. Maryland should have a loud voice as a leader in this convention.

I want to close with a prayer for all of you in this committee today. We want to thank our L-rd for giving this committee---the gracious Gift of knowledge.

Thank you for letting me speak to you. I wish you all *Shalom*, Peace! Good health! and Success in your duties here in the State House.

Jakob Testimony in favor of SJ1 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Jakob DeBoer

Position: FAV

Testimony by Jakob DeBoar in Favor of SJ0002 Convention of States.

Dear Committee Members,

Most people know what term limits are, but not many people know the true value of them and how they were formed and implemented.

Term limits were first introduced to the government on February 27, 1951 via the 22nd amendment. This prevented people, after President Franklin Roosevelt, from serving more than two terms in a row as president.

Term limits are crucial to governmental structure, as they prevent presidents from making biased decisions to retain power and an oppressive and possibly authoritarian government from forming, and a leader from becoming separated from their duty to serve the people's needs.

This tendency of human nature is not limited to just our Commander in Chief.

In the present, most elected government officials are allowed to serve an unlimited number of terms, which leaves them susceptible to the same problems and may be the reason that we have surpassed our debt ceiling by trillions.

For instance, public officials could be coerced through large donations or risk of losing an election into supporting laws that a well-connected group of people demand - even if, in their opinion, these laws aren't best for the country as a whole.

When elected officials are more heavily influenced by wealthy donors and connected individuals than their own constituents - then they represent special interests rather than the everyday people.

Additionally, older politicians taking up the limited seats of government prevent new and innovative ideas from forming from younger leaders. This leads us to the point where officials push the status quo for the special interest groups, mocking the design of our representative government, and skipping generations of office holders.

Term limits minimize the amount politicians would be susceptible to lobbyists and their financial influence, and establish safety buffers to protect against negative

consequences for the country. They also would allow for new and younger people to be involved and to overall improve our society for our citizens.

This resolution gives a way to solve the problem of leaving generations and their ideas behind in running the government.

I appreciate your time to hear me and request that you vote favorable on this joint resolution to send it to the floor for debate. Thank you.

James McQueen Testimony in Favor SJ0001.pdf

Uploaded by: James McQueen

Position: FAV

Good Afternoon Senate Committee

I am James McQueen, Sr Maryland Native, the COS Regional captain supporting over 3,800 Marylanders.

How did we end up here?

The Bible has been around for thousands of years, yet it has not grown or changed.

The Constitution of the United States was 58 pages plus the study guide called The Federalist Papers.

Today the Constitution of the United States is 3000+ pages when you add all of the Supreme Court's rulings to append it.

Its sole function was to define the exercise of government & limit governmental powers.

Today's government chaos only adds burdens and limitations on the people.

Soldiers, police, civil servants and civil authorities do not pledge to a government but to the US Constitution and only government under the US Constitution. How can you pledge an oath and truly understand 3000+ pages?

Today an American Flag on a front porch says we are Terrorists.

The ruling class of rich elites are driving down our free society by controlling the US Government through bureaucracy and Democrats and Republicans.

Our Christian American Heritage was rewritten; as cited by Robert Brown Elliot African American Congressman who stood up to Mr. Stevens in congress Jan. 6, 1874

It is past time for Article V of the Constitution and to call a Convention of States to put the federal bureaucracy back in its rightful place and restore states' rights.

Please vote in favor of SJ0001

<https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/speech-on-the-proposed-civil-rights-bill/>

Thank you.

Testimony in Support of SJ1.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Brown

Position: FAV

BILL: Senate Joint Resolution 1
TITLE: United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
DATE: March 14, 2023
WHO: Jennifer Brown
POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

The Honorable Chair Brian Feldman & Members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer Brown, have a Masters in Government from Johns Hopkins University with a focus in Law and Justice. I am a political science instructor and a district 35 Convention of States supporter. Last year I testified about increasing inflation, job instability, and the impact of federal regulation on students attending college. This year I would like to address some of the concerns typically raised by those who are hesitant to support an amendments convention.

Many decry the Convention of 1787 as “runaway,” and voice concerns that an amendments convention would end with the same fate. First, this is not an accurate depiction of the historical and constitutional framework of the United States of America at that time. The 1777 Articles of Confederation created an entirely different government structure than we have now. Each state retained “sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right,” not directly addressed in the Articles. Furthermore, they entered “into a firm league of friendship with each other.”ⁱ The Articles operated like a treaty among sovereign states rather than creating a federal or unitary structure.

By 1786, the states recognized shortcomings of the Articles and independently sent delegates to the federal convention, to carry out what Congress had recommended, namely revising the Articles, to “render the Federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of government and the preservation of the Union.”ⁱⁱ Thus the goal of the Constitutional Convention was to rewrite the Constitution as a long-term stable government, not simply propose amendments for an already faltering system. The length of debate and breadth discussion from each states’ delegation makes it obvious that the states were not only in agreement, but had conferred legal authority on their delegates to make the necessary structural alterations to the Articles.

The convention proposed by SJ1 is fundamentally different. SJ1 is clear in its limitations on state delegates to consider amendments that, 1. “impose fiscal restraints on the federal government,” 2. “limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government,” and 3. “limit the terms of office for officials of the federal government and for the members of the U.S. Congress.” It further states that other amendments outside of this scope may **NOT** be considered by the delegation. Additional amendments proposed by the convention, require a ratification threshold of 38 states, which will keep unwanted amendments from national passage. Furthermore, there is sufficient historical evidence and precedent for state conventions as mentioned in the testimony of Mr. Betz.

Maryland’s unwillingness to consider an amendments convention at the federal level is also fundamentally opposed to our own State Constitutional philosophy. In Marylandⁱⁱⁱ, as well as in 18 other states, the citizens must periodically vote on whether or not there will be a state convention to propose amendments. This presents a reasonable question. If the Maryland Constitution recognizes the future need for a constitutional amendments convention, why would the necessity or process at the federal level be called into question? I ask the members of this committee to consider our political culture as a smaller state, but always as a key player in national affairs. I hope the committee will continue that trend and **VOTE FAVORABLE** on SJ1. Thank you.

ⁱ United States National Archives. *Articles of Confederation 1777*. January 3, 2023. <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/articles-of-confederation#transcript>.

ⁱⁱ Connecticut, Avalon Project, Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale Law School. "Credentials of the Members of the Federal Convention, Commonwealth of Massachusetts; April 9, 1787," *Documentary History of the Constitution Vol. I* (New Haven, CT: Lillian Goldman Law Library, 2008), https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/cred02.asp.

ⁱⁱⁱ Maryland State Archives. *Maryland Constitution: Amendments to the Constitution, Article XIV, sec. 2*. March 14, 2022. <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/43const/html/14art14.html>

SJ1COS.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV

JUSTIN READY
Legislative District 5
Carroll County

MINORITY WHIP

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 14, 2023

SJ 1 – U. S. Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

This resolution is being presented to offer a structural solution to a structural problem. It offers the chance to restore the balance of powers in our federal system by using our state legislature constitutional authority under Article V.

The activities of Washington, D.C. today would have been unimaginable to the founders of our country. Federal laws and regulations now touch upon every aspect of our lives, from what kind of light bulbs we can buy to farming practices to school curriculum to health care.

Meanwhile, we live under the shadow of a crushing national debt that threatens to envelop our grandchildren and their children. This has been a bipartisan problem with plenty of blame to go around. In addition, the Supreme Court throughout the past decades has vastly expanded federal power through its precedents with frequently willing accomplices in Congress and the Executive Branch. The Supreme Court has created loopholes to the Constitution's limit on federal power, and those loopholes will remain there until someone closes them.

That "someone"- by design – is supposed to be us as elected state legislatures. In their wisdom, our founders predicted that this very situation would arise over time. Toward the very end of the Constitutional Convention, George Mason specifically predicted that the federal government would one day overpower the states. And that is why he insisted that Article V include a way for states to propose constitutional amendments through a state-controlled convention.

Mason's proposal was adopted without dissent. This final version of Article V gave the states the ultimate constitutional power—the power to unilaterally amend the Constitution of the United States, without the consent of Congress.

The way it works: 2/3s of the state legislatures (34) pass resolutions applying for a convention to propose amendments on the same topic (which serves as the meeting agenda). Each state chooses and instructs its delegation of commissioners, who attend the meeting and work with the other state delegations to hammer out possible **amendment proposals** on the topic(s) specified in the 34 state applications. Because they act as agents of their state legislatures, the

commissioners only have legal authority to act pursuant to that specified agenda, and only to act in pursuance of their legislature's instructions. Every state gets one vote.

Any proposals that are supported by a majority of the states at the convention then get submitted back to the states for ratification. Only when 38 states ratify a proposal can it become part of our Constitution.

By passing the resolution before you, Maryland will effectively be raising its hand to say, "Yes, we believe it is time for the states to gather to consider proposing amendments that will re-balance federal power with state power." Specifically, the Article V convention called pursuant to SJ 1 would be limited to three topics for amendment proposals:

1. Amendments that impose common sense fiscal discipline on the federal government.
2. Amendments that again responsibly limits the power and jurisdiction of the federal government; and
3. Amendments that set term limits for federal officials—including or possibly limited to federal judges as well as department heads.

Now, let me be clear, this does not mean that the convention must propose an amendment on each of these topics. Rather, these topics describe the outer limit on what would be germane for consideration at the convention.

My motivation for introducing this legislation is not just because of the central idea of the need to limit and reorder the federal government's hold on local and state governments, although that is certainly important. My motivation is also watching the out-of-control vitriol and lack of trust that has surged in the past decade as it relates to national politics. Who is in the White House and who controls Congress has taken on what should be outsized importance as the federal government's power has surged to the point where one side fears the other will drastically and punitively change the other side's way of life irrevocably. I believe that a part of the solution to this rancor is to calm and lower the stakes by purposefully restoring the proper balance of power to the government entities closer to the people and far more nimble, efficient, and responsive in addressing specific, day-to-day problems than the federal government.

The Convention of States Action Maryland (all-volunteer) organization comprises 100s of volunteers and over 28,000 total supporters from across Maryland. A few of them will be testifying here today and I respectfully ask that you take to heart their testaments and conclude with a favorable report.

Mary Jane Perraut Testimony in Favor of SJ1 2023.p

Uploaded by: Mary Jane Perraut

Position: FAV

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- Senate Joint Resolution SJ1 – concerning -United States Constitution
– Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

Mary Jane Perraut
2128 Darcy Green Place
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Date: March 1, 2023

Education, Energy, and the Environmental Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman and the Honorable Committee Members,

I am Mary Jane Perraut, Regional Captain, and I represent almost 5,000 Convention of States supporters, and am thankful for your attention today. Our Article V Convention of States resolution is simply calling for a national convention to debate the three topics outlined in the application.

Citizens across the state are concerned about what is happening in Washington and are relieved when they learn that there is a solution. They immediately sign the petition knowing that term limits and fiscal restraints are needed!

A recent survey showed that 80% of voters, across party lines, wanted Congress term-limited. Those opposed have said elections are term limits, yet the President can only serve 2 terms. Congress should be term-limited as well, but it can only be accomplished through a Convention of States.

Inflation, created by federal overspending, lowers our standard of living and creates a huge strain on lower-income families who suffer the most. In 30 years 40% of the national budget will be interest expense on the debt. Wouldn't it be helpful to have one topic in one bill, as we do in Maryland? This helps control costs.

The third topic is restraining the federal government to rebalance the power between the states and the federal government. I used to think it could be a slippery slope to have a Convention of States, but after reading more, I learned that's not possible. The result of the convention is to simply propose amendments constrained by three topics, which need to be ratified by 38 states. So, we are just asking to have a meeting to discuss these types of solutions.

Ask yourself, what do I have to lose by voting on this bill for the first time? You have much to gain because this is the most important legislation of our lifetime.

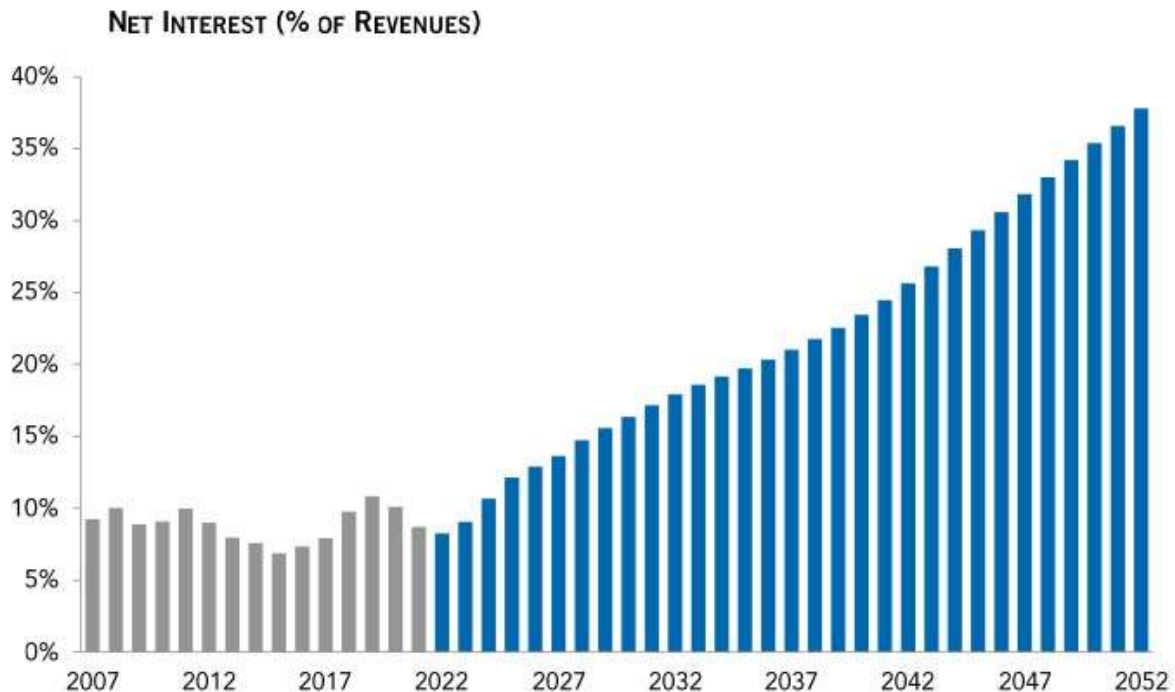
Please approve SJ1.

Thank you!

Appendix 1: National Debt Interest Impact on Budget



Net interest costs will account for almost 40 percent of federal revenues by 2052



SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office, *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2022 to 2032*, May 2022.
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PGPF.ORG

Note

Investors usually don't become concerned until the debt-to-GDP ratio reaches a critical level. The World Bank has said the **tipping point is 77%** or more. In 2022 the Debt to GDP is over this threshold at 121% plus \$173 T of unfunded liabilities.

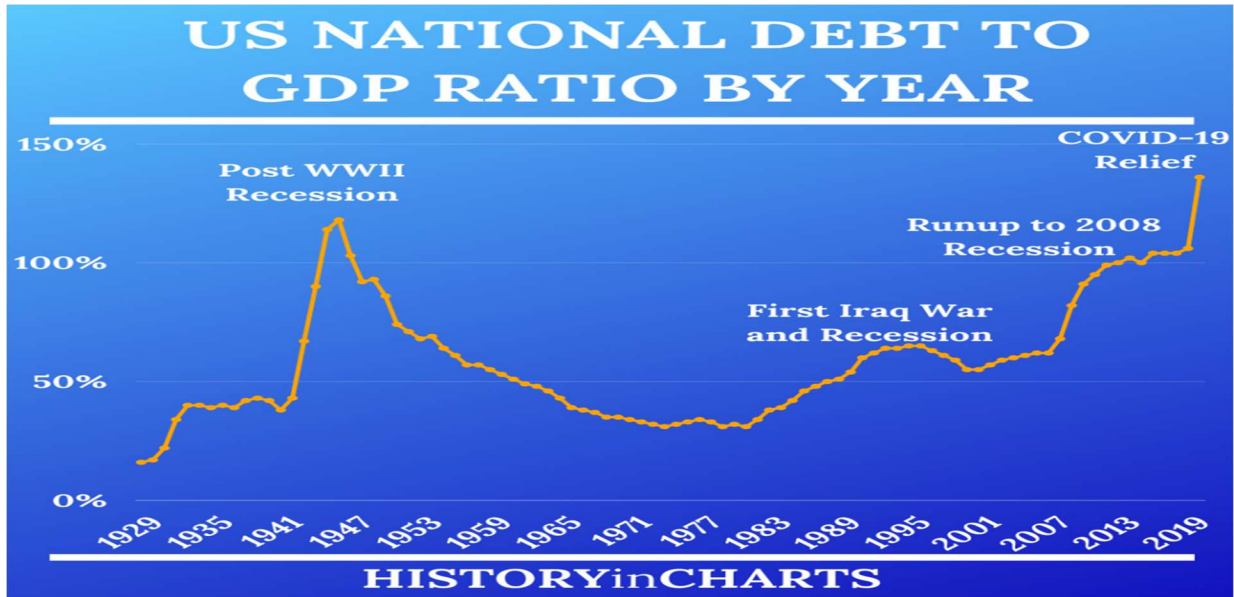
U.S. Debt to GDP

1960 52%

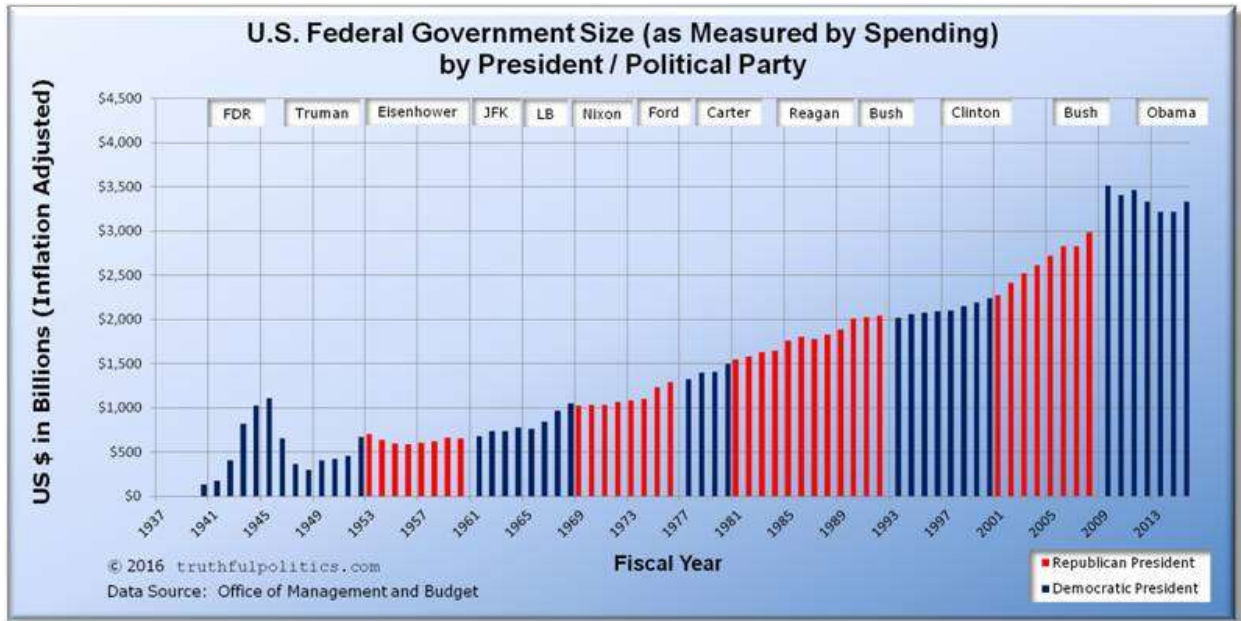
1980 34%

2000 55%

2022 121%

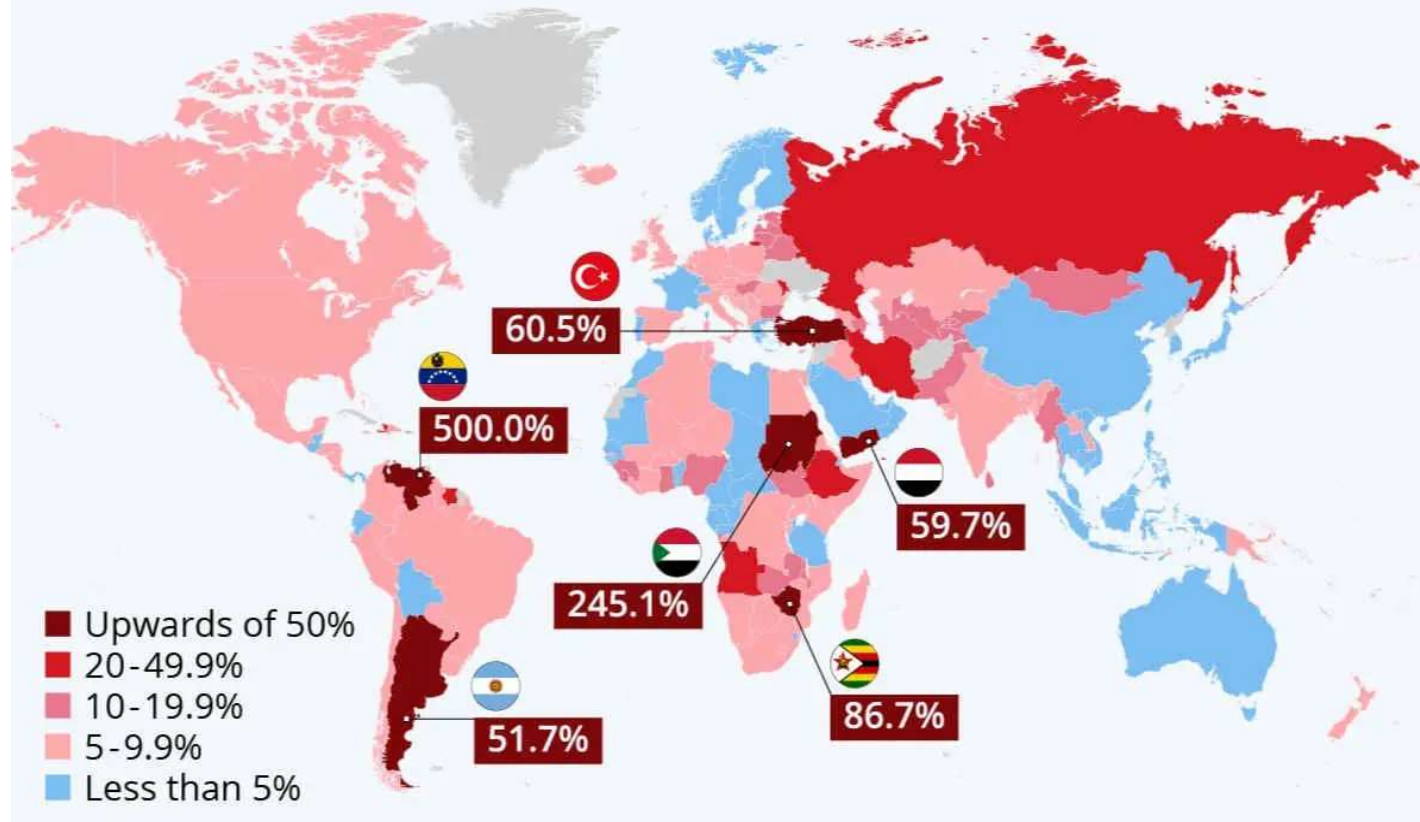


THE USA IS RANKED 11TH IN THE WORLD FOR DEBT TO GDP



Appendix 2: Annual Inflation

Projected annual inflation by country in 2022



[Inflation by Country 2023 - Wisevoter](#)

Appendix 3: Examples of Possible Amendments to be Discussed

- Impose term limits for Senators to 2 terms and Congress to 4 terms
- Limit Supreme Court Justices to nine members.
- Require members of Congress to live under the same laws they pass for the rest of us.
- Require a balanced federal budget.
- Impose limits on federal spending and/or taxation.
- Return the education system to the states and localities.
- Stop unelected federal officials from imposing regulations.
- Set term limits for Supreme Court Justices.
- Set term limits for federal officials, ending the dominance of the federal bureaucracies.
- Give the primacy of the state over the federal government in energy policy.

- Force the federal government to honor its commitment to return federal lands to the states.
- Prevent the addition of states without the consent of three-quarters of the existing states.
- One bill only includes one topic

Farris Testimony_Maryland 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Farris

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL FARRIS, J.D.¹

ON SJ 1

MARYLAND SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Honorable committee members, the resolution before you offers a structural solution to a structural problem. It offers you the chance to restore the balance of powers in our federal system by using your constitutional authority under Article V.

Congress and administrative agencies have long usurped powers that rightfully belong to you--the elected lawmakers of Maryland. The activities of Washington, D.C. today would have been unthinkable to our Founding Fathers. Federal laws and regulations now touch upon every aspect of our lives: What kind of light bulbs we can buy. Farming practices. School curriculum. School lunches. Health care and insurance.

Meanwhile, we live under the shadow of a crushing national debt that threatens to enslave our grandchildren and their children. All of this comes courtesy of decades of activist courts, which have vastly expanded federal power through their precedents. Over time, the Supreme Court has created loopholes to the Constitution's limits on federal powers, and those loopholes will remain there until someone closes them.

That "someone" has to be you. It's obvious that Congress is never going to curtail its own power—at least not definitively or permanently. It would take decades for the Supreme Court to reverse enough precedents to eliminate the constitutional loopholes it has created, and that is assuming that the right cases reached it in the right posture, and that we had decades of a solidly,

¹ Michael Farris is a Senior Advisor to Convention of States and co-founded the organization with Mark Meckler. He is largely known for his work in constitutional appellate litigation, religious freedom, and homeschool advocacy.

After years of success in the COS movement, God called Mike back to defending religious freedom, human life, and the family. In 2017, Mike left Convention of States for a time to serve as the President, CEO and General Counsel of Alliance Defending Freedom, the world's premiere defender of religious liberty.

Mike was the founding president of both the Home School Legal Defense Association and Patrick Henry College. He has served as lead counsel in the United States Supreme Court, eight federal circuit courts, and the appellate courts of 13 states.

Following five years of dedicated work with ADF, Mike returned to Convention of States to help push the Article V solution over the finish line. With his dignified commitment to liberty and preserving the fundamental rights of the Constitution, he joined the COS team again in 2023.

Mike and his wife Vickie have 10 children and many grandchildren.

consistently constitutionalist Supreme Court. A president could choose to act with some restraint during his term—maybe—but can do nothing to restrain future presidents.

Fortunately, in their wisdom, our Founding Fathers predicted that this very situation would arise. Toward the very end of the Constitutional Convention, George Mason specifically predicted that the federal government would one day overpower the states. And that is why he insisted that Article V include a way for states to propose constitutional amendments through a state-controlled convention.

Mason's proposal was adopted without dissent. This final version of Article V gave the states the ultimate constitutional power—the power to unilaterally amend the Constitution of the United States, without the consent of Congress.

The way it works is that when 2/3s of the state legislatures (34) pass resolutions applying for a convention to propose amendments on the same topic (which serves as the meeting agenda), Congress has a constitutional duty to name the initial time and place for the meeting and then stand back and let it happen. Each state chooses and instructs its delegation of commissioners, who attend the meeting and work with the other state delegations to hammer out possible amendment proposals on the topic specified in the 34 state applications. Because they act as agents of their state legislatures, the commissioners only have legal authority to act pursuant to that specified agenda, and only to act in pursuance of their legislature's instructions. Every state gets one vote.

Any proposals that are supported by a majority of the states at the convention stage then get submitted back to the states for ratification. Only when 38 states ratify a proposal can it become part of our Constitution.

Now some people will try to prey on fear by telling you that because some of these details are not explicitly stated in the text of Article V, we have no idea how an Article V convention would operate. But that simply is not true. We know what a convention of states is, and the basics of its operation, because we have a very rich history of interstate conventions in America. That history is the very reason this process was provided as an alternative in Article V. Just as we know what a trial by jury looks like without having every detail written into the Constitution, we know how an Article V convention would function.

By passing the resolution before you, Maryland will effectively be raising its hand to say, "Yes, we believe it is time for the states to gather to consider proposing amendments that will re-balance federal power with state power." Specifically, the Article V convention called pursuant to the resolution before you would be limited to three topics for amendment proposals:

1. Amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government;
2. Amendments that limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government; and
3. Amendments that set term limits for federal officials—including or possibly limited to federal judges.

Now this does not mean that the convention must propose an amendment on each of these topics. Rather, these topics describe the outer limit on what would be germane for consideration at the convention. With this approach, the convention could propose a balanced budget amendment accompanied by limitations on Congress' spending and taxation powers. It could propose limits on executive power, federal agencies, and impose real checks and balances on the Supreme Court.

Most American citizens, and the vast majority of state legislators I speak with as I travel the country, agree that our nation is in desperate need of a re-balancing of power between the federal government and the states. The Article V convention for proposing amendments is *the* constitutional process designed to address that problem.

In fact, in George Washington's farewell address to the American people, his final admonishment to us was this: "If in the opinion of the People, the distribution or modification of the Constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed."

I don't think our Founding Fathers would be surprised that the federal government has claimed more than its constitutional share of power. They *would* be surprised, I think, that we have not used the most effective tool they gave us for curbing it.

History will remember us, one way or another. We will either be remembered as the generation that finally succumbed, completely, to federal tyranny, or the generation who stood and defended the torch of liberty when it was flickering dangerously low. As Ronald Reagan said, "You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. Will we preserve for our children, this, the last best hope of man on earth, or will we sentence them to take the first step into a thousand years of darkness? If we fail, at least let our children and our children's children say of us we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done."

I am out here on the road, away from my home and my family because I believe it is my duty. Let it never be said of our generation that we failed to do all that could be done.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

Mike Rilee testimony in favor of SJ1 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Rilee

Position: FAV

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of - Senate Joint Resolution SJ1 - United States Constitution –
Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 14, 2023

Michael Lee Rilee
16919 Glen Oak Run
Derwood, MD 20855

Dear Committee Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Michael Rilee. I live in Derwood, Maryland in District 19. I'm a PhD scientist who develops advanced computing technologies for climate science. I also volunteer with Convention of States Action as Maryland's State Director representing the now more than 30,000 supporters across the state.

We're a non-profit constitutional education organization dedicated to helping Marylanders improve our civics skills and build bridges between constituents and their legislators. We are a diverse group that cares deeply about Maryland and the United States.

Our supporters are here to tell you why they believe an Article V Convention of States is necessary at this time. Like you, Mr. Chair, they are motivated by the problems our fellow citizens face, and they strive for constructive discussions about the way forward.

Today, I will focus on the resources we could apply to those problems. Maryland's share of Federal spending is over 113 billion dollars, which is about 20 billion more than our state budget.

How much control do you have over where that 113 billion goes?

Is it solving the important problems we face in Maryland?

Are we getting the value we deserve?

Maryland is home to some of the most highly regarded institutions in the world. We have one of the most educated populations. We Marylanders know best how to apply our citizens' hard-earned resources to our own local issues. But to have that discussion, we need to rebalance our relationship with our Federal Government. An Article V Convention of States provides a well understood, disciplined way for you and your fellow state legislators from across the country to start the discussion.

Let's bring those resources back to Maryland so you, our legislators, can work together to make sure those hard-earned resources go where they're needed.

Only then can we get fair, equitable, and sustainable solutions that truly meet Maryland's needs.

Please pass the resolution out of committee for debate and a vote on the floor.

Sincerely,

Michael Lee Rilee

Nancy Dall senate testimony in favor of SJ1.pdf

Uploaded by: Nancy Dall

Position: FAV

Nancy Dall
In FAVOR of SJ0001

Members of the committee, our constitutional republic is in jeopardy. For one, we are letting our federal government take away our freedoms.

Censorship, my utmost concern, especially under the guise of “for the better good” is how totalitarianism begins. Our federal government and media together, unlawfully, are smothering any opposing views, thwarting any debate. China, Eastern Europe, Cuba and now Brazil...history has given us warning signals and this one is blaring at us.

Our system of controls are being eaten away and disregarded. If we continue on this path I believe that ultimately, the role of the States will be so diminished as to become obsolete. It would be naive to think that this country could preserve it's freedoms and inalienable rights if we do not take action.

And, it is not just censorship that is of major importance. We are at a crucial time in which using Article V would be the best means to peacefully and fairly keep the balance of powers in check.

This specific resolution holds 3 areas that may be debated for possible amendments. Please note that any debate or discussion falling outside any of these 3 areas cannot take place.

1. Term Limits, including bureaucrats
2. Fiscal Responsibility
3. Federal Jurisdiction

Even though each state gets only one vote, it can send as many delegates as it wants to cover any range of expertise that is lacking or desired to assist in the debate.

For ease, I've outlined below some of my concerns under these different areas.

1. Term Limits:
 - Giving control over our lives to unelected bureaucrats is imprudent.
 - Our Federal Government was never meant to be run by life-long career politicians where money and power can lead away from putting the interest of it's citizens first.

2. Fiscal Responsibility:

- Our national debt is over \$31 trillion dollars which is bigger than our GDP.
- Over the last 27 months our debt has increased 7 trillion (approximately same amount accrued from George Washington to Bush).
- Interest has hit more than \$400 billion this year. Continuing on this path, interest will be the major portion of our national budget. How is the next generation suppose to cope?
- Over a trillion of our debt is owned by China, a communist country that wants to be the world leader.
- Mandatory audits should be made on such funds as have been given to Ukraine or the like.

3. Federal Jurisdiction:

- Maryland, and with each State being different, should wield their power of having State Legislators interacting with their constituents to work together for what's best for their State.

You, right now, have the opportunity to use our constitution to protect our constitution. Holding a Convention of States is a constitutional right, not some concocted notion. Any fear or hesitation should be outweighed by the degree of what we have to lose. I fear that it will only be after it's too late that what could have been prevented takes place.

Please vote in favor of this resolution so it can pass to the floor for debate.
Thank you.

Paul Macri Testimony in Favor of SJ1 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Paul Macri

Position: FAV

Paul D. Macri Testimony in Favor of SJ0001

Good afternoon. My name is Paul Macri and I'm a retired Navy Commander and a Engineer. As the State Grassroots Coordinator, I represent over 30,000 supporters in Maryland for Convention of States and I am a strong supporter of the Joint Resolution.

The resolution before you proposes a convention to discuss three issues, fiscal restraints, federal term limits and federal overreach. Let me explain how I believe this resolution will affect those 3 to save our Constitutional Republic, now called by some a "Democracy".

First, without fiscal restraints, our children AND grandchildren will be crushed by a multi-trillion dollar debt due to excessive federal spending. You and I balance our family budget, as does the State of Maryland. We need to cut federal spending and return the spending decisions to the states.

Second, is term limits on Congress and federal officials. To be clear we DON'T want term limits on YOU in Maryland. We LIKE and need your voice. We want term limits on those in Washington DC. That will also make it easier for YOU to go to Washington DC!

The third and final issue to discuss at the convention is federal overreach. In the Navy we called this "mission creep". We need to return to the ORIGINAL limits on federal power and jurisdiction. The Constitution lists the FEW, the ONLY federal responsibilities. Anything and everything else resides in the states, like 50 little laboratories. We have to end the "one-size-fits-all" approach. The FEW federal powers should be executed ONLY in Washington DC. The MANY state powers will be applied LOCALLY.

As the saying goes, "All politics are local". The three topics work together to bring the decision making back home...along with the associated funds. When the power is returned, we will be back in balance. I trust YOU to better execute the power and budget the funds once those powers are returned to our state, certainly more effectively than those in Washington DC.

These topics enjoy a super majority, in a non-partisan way. We need your help to save our Constitutional Republic by voting favorably on this resolution so it can go to the floor for debate. Thank you.

Robert_Betz_Senate_Testimony_in Favor of SJ1 2023_

Uploaded by: Robert Betz

Position: FAV

Written Testimony in **SUPPORT of Senate Joint Resolution SJ0002**, concerning -United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

Good Afternoon,

My name is Bob Betz. I live in District 9A along with 800 other Maryland voters who want you to call for an Article V Amendments Convention. Those 800 voters and I have one message for you today: please send SJ1 to the full Senate, for a fair discussion, debate, and vote.

In my testimony today, I want to expose the disinformation behind the most common objections to our resolution. You've probably heard them already and are likely to hear them again, so I want you prepared to understand them when that happens.

First, is the claim that a Constitutional Convention could destroy the entire U.S. government and should be avoided at all costs. That's true and all of us supporting SJ1 today oppose a Constitutional Convention. SJ1 seeks an Amendments Convention, NOT a Constitutional Convention. The two are as different as Joe Biden and Donald Trump. A simple reading of Article V makes that clear.

Second, is the claim that there is no precedent for a Convention of States. In fact, Conventions of States were common when our country was founded. They are simply any meeting between any number of states to talk about something and maybe make a decision or two. The most recent one was held in the 1990s to discuss water rights among several southwestern states. They didn't call it a "Convention of States", but that's what it was and our resolution seeks to hold another one.

Third, is the claim that a Convention of States would operate without rules, could not be controlled, and would allow corporate donors, lobbyists and other undesirables to rewrite the constitution and destroy our civil liberties. Again, a simple reading of Article V makes it clear that the ONLY power this Convention of States will have is to PROPOSE, not even adopt, amendments to the constitution.

I'll say just one more thing in closing. The objections I've heard, and that will likely be submitted to this committee, are the product of people who either haven't read Article V, read it but don't understand it, or who understand what our resolution means and will say anything to retain the power they hold over us by changing nothing, and preventing Marylanders from regaining any power of self-governance.

Thank you, Bob Betz, State Information Analyst, robert.betz@cosaction.com

Seth Lipko Testimony in Favor of SJ0001 Convention

Uploaded by: Seth Lipko

Position: FAV

Testimony in Favor of SJ0001 Convention of States – Seth Lipko

My name is Seth Lipko. I live in District 32 and represent just over 4,000 supporters across Anne Arundel County. I'm testifying in support of this application for a Convention of States to propose new constitutional amendments.

The reason for my support is simple, I want my children to be able to look back at my life and be able to say with confidence that I did all I could to ensure they inherited a better world than I did. And shouldn't that be what we are all striving for? I'd wager that is the reason all of you are in public office today.

It is the duty of each one of us, whether we personally have children or not, to move our society in a positive, forward direction. I thank you for serving your communities and attempting to bring about positive change in our future.

But our federal government is failing to do this. They are enslaving my children to debt from their frivolous spending. They are ignoring their constitutional responsibilities and taking on responsibilities that should be left to you, our state government. It might be a different story if they performed those duties well, but almost everywhere the federal government interjects itself, it just spreads itself thinner, is less effective, and leaves my daughters the bill. And they have done this without the approval of us, the American people.

Honestly, you are our only hope to stop this trend. I am not being represented in DC. But I hope that I am represented here. That's why I ask that this committee take this resolution to the floor for a vote and support its full passage.

You can end lifelong residencies in Congress, allowing new public servants to enter, with new ideas to solve our nation's problems. You can put a stop to the overreach of power, restoring balance to our federalist system. You can put a stop to the overspending, bringing responsibility back to our country.

Please pass this joint resolution to the floor for debate. Thank you.

Will_Zwart_Testimony - SJ0001.pdf

Uploaded by: Will Zwart

Position: FAV

**Testimony in favor of Senate Joint Resolution SJ0001 -
William Zwart.**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Will Zwart. I'm speaking in favor of this resolution not only for myself, but for the one thousand, four hundred petition signers I represent as a district captain.

I have to say, it's really great to be here again! I never thought that I'd get the chance to testify for anything, let alone for something as wide-spread as COS. I mean, this exact same resolution has been debated by every state in the country...except Connecticut. I guess they missed the memo, but everywhere else, thousands of citizens and legislators have testified for this resolution just as I am now, and as someone of my generation, that's a pretty rare opportunity.

Before I discovered Convention of States, I felt like a lot of young people do, where Washington D.C. just seemed very...indifferent.

I think most Americans feel that way, but with younger people, it's especially strong because when Congress debates a bill, to them, it's just a bill. "Yay" or "Nay," but to us, that's our future. *We'll* have to try and pay for that thirty-trillion-dollar debt. I want to start a family someday, but I'll have to do so under hyper-inflation and a crippled economy. Those kinds of decisions should be made by the people they effect, and my generation just feels like we have no voice, no control over our own future; which seems pretty bleak, at that.

That's why so many young people feel discouraged and hopeless, but that's also why this resolution is so great, because it shows my generation that we can actually be involved in the system and make an impact. Fiscal restraints allow us to build our wealth and lives, term limits open up seats for us to actually be in the system, and overreach limits prevent the federal government from just voting away our futures. Every American should have control of their life, and in the same way that the Emancipation

Proclamation gave thousands of slaves control of their lives, a Convention of States will give millions of Americans that same control today.

This resolution will save my future, it *is* my future. Please support it, and bring it through this committee. Thank you.

Yuen Mun (Bridget) Cheung-Smith Testimony in Favor

Uploaded by: Yuen Cheung-Smith

Position: FAV

Testimony to Support Convention of States SJ1 - By Yuen Mun (Bridget) Cheung-Smith

My name is Yuen Mun Cheung. I am a first-generation immigrant from Hong Kong. I came to the United States 24 years ago – leaving everything I knew to escape from Communism, where our central government controlled how many children we could have. There today censorship has been extended not only to media but also all internet activities are monitored and a social credit score in place.

I came to the United States to be free of that reality.

Our government system is the best in the world when it operates in accordance with the Constitution. We have strayed from that.

For years, our federal government has placed regulatory burdens upon businesses, rules upon rules to restrict commerce and freedom of speech. These are very familiar things to me, and my family does not want that to happen here. But we cannot stop it without your help.

Federal agencies are not elected by the people. However, they are able to collect and spend people's money to play favoritism on projects that only benefit their donors. You know what's the best for Marylanders better than officials in DC. I hope I can count on you making sure the federal government would not get bigger.

I am worried that if you do not, Americans would live like where I came from – overreaching central government, controlled by a few hundred representatives, collecting huge amount of taxes from citizens but distributing very little to provinces that need it most and too much involvement in our personal lives.

It will hurt everyone, particularly state governments because they will no longer have much control. Please keep this from happening. You do not want to know how bad it feels to live under those conditions. Neither do I want to go back to it.

Therefore, I am here to ask you to support SJ1. Thank you very much.

AFSCME_SJ1_UNFAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cindy Smalls

Position: UNF



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Tom Tosti
Plymouth Meeting, PA

Anthony Wells
New York, NY

Mike Yestranski
Olympia, WA

SJ1 United States Constitution – Amendments Convention Limitations on Federal Powers
Education, Energy and Environment Committee
March 14, 2023
Unfavorable

The American Council of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) ask for an unfavorable report on SJ1.

The threat of calling a constitutional convention is more real than ever before. Article V convention proponents appear to be dangerously close to calling a constitutional convention to enact a balanced budget amendment, opening the constitution to a wide range of harmful changes. This would be the first constitutional convention since the original convention took place in 1787. We must prevent this development from occurring and putting all of our constitutional rights and protections up for grabs. the Maryland legislature has already taken steps to rescind its calls for an Article V convention.

Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, a convention can be called when two-thirds of the state’s petition for a convention to enact amendments to the constitution. States can also rescind their calls by voting to rescind in the state legislature, like Maryland did. Article V proponents claim that 28 states now have active applications to call an Article V convention specifically to enact a balanced budget amendment.

An Article V convention is a dangerous threat to the U.S. Constitution, our democracy, and our civil rights and liberties. There is no language in the U.S. Constitution to limit a convention to one issue and it is widely understood that a convention once called will be able to consider any amendments to the constitution that the delegates want to consider. There are also no guidelines or rules to govern a convention. Due to the lack of provisions in the constitution and lack of historical precedent, it is unknown how delegates to a convention would be picked, what rules would be in place, what would happen in the case of legal disputes, what issues would be raised, how the American people would be represented, and how to limit the influence of special interests in a convention. Because there is no way to limit a convention’s focus, any constitutional issue could be brought up, including marriage equality, civil rights and civil liberties, voting rights, privacy rights, among others.

The Maryland legislature can continue help stop this dangerous threat to our constitutional rights and protections from taking place. For these reasons, we ask for an unfavorable report on SJ1.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

TEL (202) 429-1000 FAX (202) 429-1293 TDD (202) 659-0446 WEB www.afscme.org 1625 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-5687

SJ 1 - United States Constitution – Amendments Con

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: UNF



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SJ 1 - United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee March 14, 2023

OPPOSE

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SJ 1. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

An Article V Constitutional Convention would inject chaos and uncertainty into our government. A convention opens the door to massive changes to our Constitution, without any clear direction or understanding of the consequences of those changes.

Despite our Constitution being amended 27 times, there is no precedent for an Article V Convention. No judicial, legislative, or executive body would have the clear authority to settle disputes, should any arise. We have no idea how the rules would even be set for the proceedings of a convention, how representatives would be selected, whether delegates would be proportional to population, or who would ultimately be in charge.

An Article V Convention clears the field for special interests to involve themselves directly in the process of writing the basic rules of this country. Every one of our civil liberties would be open to debate and change. Basic principles that we take for granted like voting rights, civil rights, privacy rights, could all be subject to change. Our rights to free speech, assembly, and freedom of religion would all be fair game during a convention. Workers rely on many of the rights given to us by the Constitution to organize and form unions.

America already stands perilously close to convening an Article V Constitutional Convention, and with SJ 1, we would move one more vote closer. For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable report on SJ 1.

SJ0001 J OPPOSE.pdf

Uploaded by: James Elbourn

Position: UNF

SJ0001 Oppose

United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

I oppose this bill. Even though there are good points made in the bill and in previous testimony, sadly I have little confidence that suddenly the Constitution will be followed. They aren't following it as it stands now. The Republic as we knew it has fallen and we do not have control. I just think right now to be making any changes is too risky until we get control back.

James Elbourn
Severna Park, District 31

Oppose SJ0001.pdf

Uploaded by: Peggy Williams

Position: UNF

Although I agree with Delegate Mark Fisher's reasons for why a CoS would be helpful to correct some of today's problems with a broken D.C. and curb the Federal government's power (such as single-subject bills only), I have major reservations with a CoS as well, for reasons stated in this article/video (<https://theamericanview.com/blogs/news/convention-of-states-the-good-bad-and-ugly>). I have posted key points from it:

- Congress seems to think that the requirement to “call a convention for proposing amendments” gives it the power to do much more.
- Even though the Constitution gives no such role to it, Congress seems to believe they should be deeply involved in the convention process.
- Washington, D.C. routinely ignores the Constitution as written. What makes people think that they won't simply ignore any new amendments?
- All three branches of the government in Washington, D.C. routinely violate most, if not all, of the amendments to the Constitution.
- Most of the problems we find in Washington, D.C. is not a fault in the Constitution, but in our unwillingness to enforce it.
- Many of the amendments that the Convention of States Action calls for are already covered by the existing Constitution.
- Before we ...change the Constitution, maybe we should try enforcing it first.

I think that this bill has merits to be debated in the Assembly but all the concerns above need to be seriously considered because we don't want to end up with a bigger problem than the one we started with. Given the current movement of certain entities to turn America into a socialist country, and the level of infiltration we are seeing, I believe a safer course of action *at this time* is to simply abide by the Constitution and start holding those who don't follow it to account.

There are groups out there *right now* who want nothing more than to completely and utterly destroy the Constitution. For this reason, I cannot support this bill at this time.