

Hello, I am Elliott Weakley. I am in 7<sup>th</sup> 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.