

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.