

Paul D. Macri Testimony in Favor of HJ0002

Good afternoon. My name is Paul Macri and I'm a retired Navy Commander, an Engineer and a Deep Sea Diver. As the State Grassroots Coordinator, I represent over 30,000 supporters in Maryland for Convention of States. I am a strong supporter of the Convention of States 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 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. Time won't be wasted on building a war chest and a power base. You get in, represent Maryland, help the federal situation, and go home at the end of the term set. You'll return to us with wisdom gained there, to be used again here LOCALLY, where there will not be term limits on you.

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 favorable on this resolution so it can go to the floor to debate.

Thank you.