

Stephen Patten SB1073 Favorable 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: A Stephen Patten

Position: FAV

Stephen Patten
1574 Quiet Meadow Way
Hampstead, MD 21074

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill SB1073
Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the
Convention

To the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman and the Honorable Committee Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony for your consideration on SB1073.

I am Steve Patten, the former state director of the Convention of States in Maryland and a resident of District 42C.

Throughout my engagements with this esteemed committee, I have consistently advocated for the adoption of an Article V Convention of States resolution in Maryland. Such a resolution, upon passage, would align our state with the 19 others calling for a convention aimed at deliberating and proposing amendments to institute term limits, fiscal restraints, and curtail the jurisdiction of the Federal government.

Recognizing the legitimate concerns expressed by members of this General Assembly regarding the feasibility and oversight of such a convention, our group has taken these concerns seriously. Hence, we wholeheartedly support SB1073, which establishes essential standards for the selection, instruction, and supervision of commissioners to represent Maryland at an Article V Convention of States.

As evidenced by the widespread support across 40 states, with 224 Article V convention applications spanning 57 subjects, it is evident that an Article V Convention is not a matter of "if" but "when."

Undoubtedly, you have encountered or voiced objections to the notion of a convention, citing concerns such as the lack of established procedures and the potential for uncontrolled proceedings. SB1073 effectively addresses these apprehensions.

The bill meticulously outlines definitions, qualifications, selection procedures, removal protocols, and safeguards against potential misuse for Maryland's representatives at an Article V Convention. Crucially, it ensures that you, the elected members of the Maryland General Assembly, retain control over the selection of commissioners and hold them accountable.

By preparing Maryland for an Article V Convention, we equip ourselves to participate meaningfully in shaping our nation's future. Even if such a convention is not immediately

convened, the responsibility remains for you to appoint commissioners to represent Maryland should the occasion arise.

In closing, I urge you to give careful consideration to the importance of this issue and to support SB1073 to ensure Maryland's readiness for an Article V Convention.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Stephen Patten

COS Testimonial - Fiscal Restraints Thompson - FIN

Uploaded by: Chuck Thompson

Position: FAV

Chuck Thompson
7854 Bodkin View Dr.
Pasadena, MD 21122-3639

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- Senate Bill – SB1073 - Amendments Convention
Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention -
To the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman, and the Honorable Committee Members,
My name is Chuck Thompson and live in District 31.

Federal deficit spending is harming all Americans and a convention of states
where federal spending will be discussed is the only way this can be addressed.

As an illustration - how would you feel if you bought a dozen eggs and a pound of
bacon only to come home to find out you have six eggs and eight ounces of bacon
because the federal government changed the definition of a dozen and a pound?

This may sound ridiculous but in effect this is what is happening all around us.

Take my parents who have been retired for the last 30 years. Their monthly
pension is currently buying less food, transportation, and housing. Let me provide
a quick example to quantify my point. When my father retired his monthly
pension could purchase 443 Big Macs – today only 210. That's over a 50%
reduction in his purchasing power. This is because the definition of what a dollar
can buy has changed.

Next my children. Rates for mortgages, used cars, and credit cards have all
increased dramatically. In addition, due to the reduction in the value of their
savings, they must now work longer to make up for the losses.

How about my grandchildren? When they enter the workforce a huge portion of
their taxes will be diverted to pay interest expense on the federal debt, leaving
less for them to build their future.

What's true for my family is and will be experienced by all other families across
the State of Maryland.

The members of this committee have the authority and the opportunity to address these issues through supporting and leading a convention of states.

I call on you to support SB1073 to put into place guidelines for commissioners to facilitate such a national dialog.

Your constituent's prosperity is dependent upon your actions.

Thank you for your time.



Chuck Thompson

John Kelly SB1073 Favorable 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: John Kelly, Jr.

Position: FAV

John E. Kelly, Jr.
10425 Mackall Road
St. Leonard, MD 20685

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill – SB1073 - Amendments
Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution – Delegation to the Convention
To the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman and the Honorable Committee Members,

My name is John Kelly, Jr. I was born and raised in Maryland, grew up in Greenbelt, and went to DeMatha High School. I am the oldest of 12 children and the father of 5, being married 41 years to my wife Debbie. After high school, I became a union electrician through Local #26.

I started my own company, Kelly Generator and Equipment, in 1992 with two employees, and 31 years later we have just over 100 employees both in Maryland and Pennsylvania. I have had many opportunities to interface with state and federal government representatives as both a private citizen and business owner, which has led me to the conclusion we need term limits at the federal level.

The government in our country was meant to serve and protect private citizens and the private sector and the only way to get more needed private sector experience in government is through term limits.

By letting new people serve every few years and then return to the private sector, new talent can then bring in current business and education experience, thereby helping the communities around us.

What we have now are career politicians who have little to no understanding of private sector needs - most every business owner I know, will attest to the very poor results the government is producing now and throughout my lifetime, regardless of party affiliation.

It is clear to me that a convention of states and Article 5 is the only way at this time to have term limits assured, as federal legislators will never term limit themselves out of a job.

I urge you to pass SB1073 to put guidelines around such a convention to ensure it is kept within the subject matters of fiscal restraints, overreach, and term limits at the time the convention of states is called.

Thank you.

SB 1073COSDelegation.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV

JUSTIN READY
Legislative District 5
Carroll County

MINORITY WHIP

Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 315
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3683 • 301-858-3683
800-492-7122 Ext. 3683
Justin.Ready@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 1, 2024

**SB 1073 – Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution –
Delegation to the Convention**

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

This resolution is being presented to offer a process to appoint a delegation to an amendments convention called under Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

An amendments convention will be called 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). 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.

To be clear, passing SB 1073 does not include Maryland with the 19 other states who have passed a resolution calling for an amendment convention. However, it will prepare Maryland for when the time comes with a specific process of how our state will be represented.

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.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 1073.

Maria Bedard SB1073 Favorable 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: MARIA BEDARD

Position: FAV

Maria Mougelis Bedard
3451 Basford Road
Frederick, MD 21703

Subject: Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- Senate Bill – SB1073 - Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention.

To the Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman and the Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Maria Bedard. Thank you for welcoming Convention of States Action Maryland supporters and giving them the opportunity to appear before your committee today. I am the COS Action Maryland State Director.

COS is pro-good government and decidedly non-partisan. At the federal level, our national government is off track. We believe that state legislatures and local governments are best suited and most appropriate to meet the needs and desires of their citizens.

With over 32,000 supporters in Maryland and 2 ½ million nationwide, COS represents ordinary citizens who feel disenfranchised from the daily workings of our nation's Capital. They tell us they feel discouraged by the bureaucratic enigma of a federal government that continues to grow with thousands of departments, agencies, and bureaus.

The Constitution recognizes that leaders are imperfect. Article V was written for the time when the citizens would inevitably choose to take a 'time-out' and get things back on track using Article V.

To date, 27 amendments have been proposed, debated, and legally ratified through Congress using Article V of the Constitution, which requires approval by three-fourths or 34 of the states.

Regardless of whether Maryland passes any Article V legislation - and there are a variety of proposals out there - Maryland should be prepared to participate in a convention when it is called. Over the years, you have asked us for clarity regarding a convention, and COS is responding nationally with a new legislative framework to address those voices directly.

Like you, we recognize the concerns that a convention could "run away" without proper ground rules. Our Delegation to the Convention Legislation (SB 1073) assuages those concerns. We're here today to help you prepare for the eventual Article V convention.

A Convention of States will convene in our lifetime. As State Senators, YOU can lead the country in passing legislation to set the ground rules for how Maryland will participate in an Article V Convention of States. You will hear more about it today from our volunteers. We appreciate your time and your service to the people of Maryland.

Mary Jane Perraut SB1073 Favorable 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Jane Perraut

Position: FAV

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- House Bill SB1073 concerning - Amendments Convention
Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention

Mary Jane Perraut
2128 Darcy Green Place
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Date: February 9, 2024

Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman and the Honorable Committee Members,

I'm Mary Jane Perraut, a lifetime resident of Montgomery County. All civilizations rise and fall, and the United States is no exception. It's declining due to unchecked bipartisan spending. Venezuela is the most recent example of a government that failed to cut spending.

In Feb 2019, Jerome Powell told the Senate Banking Committee, "debt as a percentage of GDP is growing sharply... And that is unsustainable by definition." Then, the debt was \$22T; now, it's \$34T and projected to be \$52T in 8 years. Interest is now the fourth-largest government program, behind Social Security, Medicare, and Defense.

Although the dollar has been the world currency reserve for 70 years, there's a gradual move to trade with the yuan (by BRIC). The loss of investors in the dollar, the rising debt, and escalating interest rates eventually will result in the default of the U.S. currency. As a result, banks would close, the investment markets would fall, and we would lose access to cash and our retirements.

Congress has no incentive to reduce spending and is undisciplined, so the structure needs to change. As state legislators, the Constitution gives you the power to put controls in place and move our country forward with an Article V Convention of States to propose restraints on federal spending.

Please vote in favor of SB1073 to bring it to the floor for a full debate so Maryland can lead this effort.

Nancy Dall SB1073 Favorable 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Nancy Dall

Position: FAV

Nancy Dall
838 Mill Creek Road
Arnold, MD 21012

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- Senate Bill – SB1073 - Amendments Convention
Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention -

To the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman, and the Honorable Committee Members

No other country has the likes of our Constitutional Republic; but as great as it is, without oversight it is not indestructible. The States have the responsibility to maintain the balance of powers and be the watch dog over our Federal Government. Article V of the constitution was meant to be used by the states for this very purpose.

19 States have passed a convention of states resolution, 16 States have passed legislation similar to SB1073 because they recognize that explicit rules around a convention are needed.

I recently spoke to a member of the house who believes there could be a run away convention. This bill addresses those concerns and more. It will help legislators truly understand how this process can work. Such as having a legislative oversight committee with the authority to immediately discharge a delegate who does not abide by the rules set out for them. Putting blocks in place to bar any outside influence which includes that no monetary donations can be accepted.

No different from Congress, there's a possibility that no amendments would pass. There is, however, no better way to fix issues with our federal government than by States working together towards lasting solutions that could also strengthen State legislators' control.

With your decisive action, Maryland can be a leader in becoming prepared and knowledgeable about how to hold a Convention of States and have it run smoothly. With the guidance and knowledge that can be gained via this Bill, Maryland can move forward with clarity in this process.

Please vote in favor of this bill to assist Maryland in paving the way by setting standards that would be powerful and profound. Thank you.

Paul D. Macri SB1073 Favorable 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Paul Macri

Position: FAV

Paul Macri
8056 Riverview Road
Westover, MD 21871

Written Testimony in **SUPPORT of- Senate Bill – SB1073** - Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention -

To the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman, and the Honorable Committee Members,

I am Paul D. Macri, from District 38A.

There are four steps to the Convention of States process:

- 1) passing the resolution
- 2) determining the rules
- 3) selecting the Commissioners
- 4) and participating in the Convention.

In Maryland, we are at step one, but we are looking at working in parallel with step two... the rules.

People naturally have a fear of the unknown. Supporters and opponents of a convention of states both had questions about the rules that would be put in place **BEFORE** the actual Convention. There are a lot of “what if?” questions. Our leadership team helped draft this bill to answer those questions. The rules of the Delegation to the Convention legislation provide immediate penalties for commissioners that run astray of the meeting intent. This eliminates the worry of a “runaway convention”.

Since Gov Gavin Newsom of California has expressed interest in a Convention of States, we are now involved in a **bi-partisan** solution. Since we have already passed the 50% point for states needed, we have momentum. At this point, it’s not **IF** the resolutions will be passed, it is question of **WHEN**. State #34 triggers **ALL** 50 states to participate in a convention. None of us wants Maryland to be embarrassed by not having the rules ready and not having the Commissioners selected when needed.

As a group, our Maryland team decided to address two concerns. With this legislation we will be able to address incorrect narratives and answer the “what if questions”. And at the same time, we provide rules and a fact-based, step-by-step process. We have boundaries and accountability in place so there is the ability to recall a rouge commissioner and resolve any other problems. Passing the Delegation to the Convention Bill, we remove the fear of the unknown and engage in a productive discussion. This will provide a clear context for the moving forward next year. Thank you.

Robert Betz SB1073 Favorable 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Betz

Position: FAV

Robert Betz
7451 Jennifer Way
Sykesville, MD 21784

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill SB 1073

Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention
To the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman and the Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Bob Betz, and I live in District 9A with 800 other Marylanders who support a Convention of States. I ask you to please send SB 1073 to the full Senate for a fair discussion, debate, and vote.

As you're aware, the Convention of States is a meeting where all 50 states discuss and PROPOSE constitutional amendments on three topics: federal overreach, fiscal restraints, and term limits.

It's a simple concept, but some people feel there are good reasons to oppose a convention. You've heard them and maybe share them. Instead of explaining why they aren't valid, I'm going to tell you how to prevent them by using this Bill.

First, people say there aren't any rules for how to hold a convention. That's true, just like there are no rules for how Congress proposes amendments. But that won't be a problem if SB 1073 becomes law. It creates rules telling Maryland's delegates exactly how to conduct our state's business at the convention. Every state's delegation will have similar rules, and the only things to decide when the convention starts will be administrative details.

Second, some people think a Convention of States could "run away" and completely rewrite the Constitution. SB 1073 also makes that impossible by limiting our delegates to working on the convention's three topics. It can also set penalties allowing recall and replacement of delegates who deviate from Maryland's instructions.

And last, for today, this bill lets you and the rest of the Senate address anything else that concerns you. Should delegates be paid? Add it to the bill. How many should go, and how do we pick them? Put that in the bill, too. SB 1073 can address everyone's concerns.

I'll close by repeating what everyone else is telling you today. There WILL be a Convention of States, Maryland WILL be invited, and we WILL need a set of rules when that happens. Please vote favorable on this bill now, or wait until the convention is called and then do the same thing with less time to work.

Thank you.

2024 COS Testimony SB 1073.pdf

Uploaded by: Sallie Taylor

Position: FAV

February 29, 2024

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan
and committee members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment

RE: Testimony in support of
SB 1073, Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S.
Constitution - Delegation to the Convention

I urge you to support SB 1073. As you may know, many state legislatures across the country have passed resolutions calling for a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution and that such a convention would be limited to imposing fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit its power and jurisdiction, and impose term limits on federal officials and members of Congress.

However, the purpose of this bill to prepare Maryland for such a convention should it occur requiring that the General Assembly to establish a process for selecting the Maryland delegation.

Preparation is crucial to ensure that the people of Maryland will be vigorously represented should an Article V convention be convened.

Please vote favorable on SB 1073.

Sincerely,

Sallie Taylor

1260 Guilford Road
Eldersburg, Maryland
21784

Sandra Worsham SB1073 Favorable 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Sandra Worsham

Position: FAV

Sandra Worsham
12918 Town Commons Drive
Germantown, MD 20874

Written Testimony in **SUPPORT of Senate Bill – SB1073** - Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention -

To the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman, and the Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Sandra Worsham, and I vote in District 15. I decided to come today, because I believe we have a lot in common. We all have families and people depending upon us to do our jobs well, take care of them and provide for their future. We all hope to live, retire, and leave behind a free society and a safe United States. One big difference though is that you have the power and opportunity to protect our rights and ensure we leave behind that free and safe society.

Our federal government and its agencies believe it can do your job better than you. It consistently encroaches on our rights and imposes regulations that have not been approved by our elected leaders. This is why I support the Convention of the States and this Bill. Many agree with me. Nineteen Convention of States applications have been filed whose purpose is to limit the federal government's size, scope, and power.

It is obvious, voters want the federal government out of your and our back pocket. If they were doing a stellar job, maybe we'd be less adamant-but they are not. Voters want to see positive change, and change can happen if Maryland joins the numerous states who previously passed their Convention of States resolutions and takes the action permitted to it by Article 5. We want each arm of government responsible for doing its work and not overstep its boundaries. We may have differing opinions about how much the federal government has increased the scope of its power beyond what was intended, but hopefully we can agree if no action is taken, it will only get worse.

I hope you will lead and pass this Bill out of committee, so the floor can engage in a full debate on this important Delegation to the Convention. I ask you to support the legislation to provide a framework for the convention when it is called, so Maryland can be a leader in the effort.

Thank you.

Seth Lipko SB1073 Favorable 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Seth Lipko

Position: FAV

Seth Lipko
1121 Nottingham Dr.
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1073: Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution – Delegation to the Convention

To the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman, and the Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Seth Lipko, and I'm from District 32. I have testified for the past several years in support of Maryland's application to an Article V Convention of States, and this year, I am advocating for SB1073. My reason for this is that I want our state to be ready, for whenever an Article V Convention occurs, whether it's for the one that I have supported in the past, to limit the federal government's size, scope, and power, or any other.

As we've seen recently, Congress has a hard time picking a Speaker of the House. The American people know we can't rely on them to solve the more difficult problems. That is why we in Maryland have been coming to you. And while dissatisfaction is a great motivator, I recognize that doesn't solve problems. We want to be sure that we have certainty in the path we take to solve these problems.

And that is where this bill comes in to play. It defines Maryland's "rules of engagement" for a convention. Here are several important processes outlined in this bill:

- Establishes an oversight committee in the General Assembly
- Defines the commissioner selection process and their personal qualifications
- Specifies the number of commissioners that would make up Maryland's delegation
- Describes how the General Assembly holds those individuals accountable to the will of the state, and provisions a recall process for them
- Ensures the bill of rights and civil rights amendments are off limits to any changes.
- Defines how the commissioners organize at the convention, such as how they select a chairperson and how they vote

This bill is vital to be prepared for the inevitable. Whether Maryland itself holds Article V applications or not, once 34 states agree to meet, all 50 states will be invited. When this happens, I want to be proud that our state is ready to rise to the occasion and show that we care enough about our nation to be ready to solve the problems that Congress will not. I urge you to support the full passage of this bill. Thank you.

Will Zwart SB1073 Favorable 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Will Zwart

Position: FAV

Will Zwart
105 Prussian Turn,
Centreville MD, 21617

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of - Senate Bill – SB1073 -
Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S.
Constitution - Delegation to the Convention –

To the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman and the Honorable Committee
Members,

My name is Will Zwart. I'm from District 36, and I've been with the
Convention of States for three years now. I won't take up too much time
because I only have three things to say.

Number 1: the Convention of States is inevitable. Only 15 more states
need to pass the resolution, there are very active teams and legislation in
all 50 states, and there are two and a half million supporters from every
belief, race, gender, and political party, and these numbers are increasing
by the day. Hundreds of legislators like yourself are beginning to see the
writing on the wall, as are leading constitutional and political experts,
who say that the convention will happen, and probably within the
decade.

Number 2: with this in mind, Maryland needs to be prepared. Even if *we*
don't pass the resolution (though, of course, we should), other states
will, and we can't be caught unprepared. That's why I strongly advocate
for SB1073. Maryland must have a voice at the inevitable convention,
and we must have a way to hold those commissioners we send
accountable. This legislation will reinforce an already concrete process
by ensuring those commissioners are beholden to you, the General
Assembly, and not under the influence of special interest or, let's say,

radical groups, to pass one-sided amendments. The convention is coming, and Maryland must be prepared.

Number 3: I just want to thank everyone for your time, and assure you that Convention of States is the only democratic solution to the problem of Washington's extremism, and it's a process that has plenty of precedent and is so heavily supported by both sides of the aisle, that it will eventually happen. The question is: will Maryland be caught unprepared, or are we going to be fully equipped to participate in one of the most important political events in American history, and we can do that with SB1073. I urge you to vote favorable.

Thank you.

SB 1073 - Amendments Convention Called Under Artic

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: UNF



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

**SB 1073 - Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution -
Delegation to the Convention
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 1, 2024**

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 SB 1073. 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.

SB 1073 creates a process for appointing Maryland's delegation to a Federal Article V Constitutional Convention. It requires seven commissioners to represent the state as its delegation appointed by legislation, but bans commissioners under 25 years old, lobbyists, federal employees or contractors, federally elected officials or those that served within 10 years, state elected officials, and those convicted of a felony within ten years.

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. SB 1073 seems to imply that delegates would not even be elected through elections, but would simply be appointed by the General Assembly so long as the appointments did not interfere with this legislation.

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 SB 1073, we would move one step closer. For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable report on SB 1073.

3-1 SB 1073 Amendments Convention Called Under Art

Uploaded by: Nancy Soreng

Position: UNF



TESTIMONY TO SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SB 1073 Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention

POSITION: Oppose

BY: Linda Kohn, President

Date: March 1, 2024

The League of Women Voters has consistently opposed calls by states for convening an Article V convention for the reasons outlined below. This legislation does nothing to address the dangers of calling for a constitutional convention.

After two years of study and consensus about amending the constitution, in 2016 the following position was announced: "The League of Women Voters is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention."

The League believes that such a convention should be called only if the following conditions are in place:

- The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret.
- The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on.
- Representation at the Constitutional Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed. The delegates represent citizens, should be elected by them, and must be distributed by U.S. population.
- Voting at the Constitutional Convention must be by delegate, not by state.
- Delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes.
- The Constitutional Convention must be limited to a specific topic. It is important to guard against a "runaway convention" which considers multiple issues or topics that were not initiated by the states.
- Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Constitutional Convention should be called. Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a Convention and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process. The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state.
- If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission must be respected by Congress.

However, Congress has taken no action to make sure that any of the safeguards outlined above are in or will be in place. Until then, we oppose any effort on the part of states to call for an Article V Constitutional Convention.

SB 1073 is an ineffectual device to give the appearance of progress on establishing protocols for an Article V Constitutional Convention and we urge an unfavorable report.

121 Cathedral Street, Suite 2B, Annapolis, MD 21401
410-269-0232 * info@lwwmd.org * www.lwwmd.org

2024-SB1703-HB1202-UNFav.pdf

Uploaded by: Nelda Fink

Position: UNF

SB1073 / HB1202 – UNFAVORABLE

Nelda Fink

MD District 32

I love my government! Why would I want to go through all this effort to change it? Going through this process may wipe out my social security benefits that I'm receiving today. Or it may wipe out someone else's government check that they depend on. It may create elections systems that are based on social score and become unfair. It may tax the rich much more and make taxes for the middle class voluntary. Imagine that – voluntary taxes!

It may take years to start and it may take years to complete. There is no time limit on it. It may be heavily influenced by lobbyists or it may be heavily influenced by wealthy sovereigns.

The delegates may play by the rules or they may not. They may hand the country over to China or Argentina.

The bill suggests that Maryland can control what is being discussed in the convention, but that is not how the convention works. So already heading down the path of deception and corruption.

It's a big unknown! Too many issues are uncontrolled and there are no guarantees that what the bill sponsors want will even be implemented.

Better to just let the election system choose our government as it does today.

I ask for an unfavorable report.

Thank you.

Nelda Fink

2024-SB1703-HB1202-UNFav.pdf

Uploaded by: Nelda Fink

Position: UNF

SB1073 / HB1202 – UNFAVORABLE

Nelda Fink

MD District 32

Beware of fraudulent letters being sent to legislators in favor of this idea or this bill. John Birch Society¹ has indicated that letters are being sent out fraudulently that are typed canned messages with the same message in each one, containing a person's address but are not signed.

I am opposed to the Convention of States. I love my government! Why would I want to go through all this effort to change it? Going through this process may wipe out my social security benefits that I'm receiving today. Or it may wipe out someone else's government check that they depend on. It may create elections systems that are based on social score and become unfair. It may tax the rich much more and make taxes for the middle class voluntary. Imagine that – voluntary taxes!

It may take years to start and it may take years to complete. There is no time limit on it. It may be heavily influenced by lobbyists or it may be heavily influenced by wealthy sovereigns.

The delegates may play by the rules or they may not. They may hand the country over to China or Argentina.

The bill suggests that Maryland can control what is being discussed in the convention, but that is not how the convention works. So already heading down the path of deception and corruption.

It's a big unknown! Too many issues are uncontrolled and there are no guarantees that what the bill sponsors want will even be implemented.

Better to just let the election system choose our government as it does today.

I ask for an unfavorable report.

Thank you.

Nelda Fink

¹ The John Birch Society website - <https://jbs.org/video/understanding-article-v/34-proof-that-cos-project-utilized-fraud-to-peddle-article-v-convention/>

Testimony in opposition to SB1073.pdf

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: UNF

SB1073_RichardKaplowitz_UNF
3/01/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/1073 - POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention

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

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony against SB#/1073, Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention

This bill is part of a plot to overhaul our American Constitution to accomplish aims of right-wing ideologues that, so far, they have been unable to obtain from the legislative or judicial systems. As reported by the HuffPost ¹ “Since 2014, the Convention of States Project and other conservative groups, including the [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC) have helped persuade lawmakers in 15 states to pass resolutions that call for a new constitutional convention. Led by a prominent right-wing activist — former Tea Party Patriots founder Mark Meckler, who is also the [current acting CEO of Parler](#), a social media platform popular on the right — the Convention of States Project has spread the gospel of a convention to an increasingly radical audience. This year, lawmakers proposed [42 Convention of States resolutions in at least 24 new states](#), according to the Center for Media and Democracy, which has long monitored the convention push.”

As reported by Common Cause: “**That means the group of people convening to rewrite our Constitution could be totally unelected and unaccountable.** There is nothing that could limit the convention to a single issue, so the delegates could write amendments that revoke any of our most cherished rights – like our right to peaceful protest, our freedom of religion, or our right to privacy. There are also no rules preventing corporations from pouring money into the convention to ensure they get their way. **In short, an Article V Convention would be a disaster.** It would lead to long and costly legal battles, uncertainty about how our democracy functions, and likely economic instability. But extremists and wealthy special interests see it as their best chance to write their far-right agenda into the Constitution. That is why they are working around the clock to convince their allies in state legislatures to make it happen”. ²

This bill advances the goals of the radical right wing to decimate our democracy and create a system of government that ratifies and dominates our country. **I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on SB#/1073.**

¹ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/mark-meckler-article-five-constitutional-convention_n_6086c380e4b09cce6c143b10

² <https://www.commoncause.org/our-work/constitution-courts-and-democracy-issues/article-v-convention/>

SB1073.pdf

Uploaded by: Suzanne Duffy

Position: UNF

SB1073 The Convention of States is a great idea in theory, but if we actually followed the US and Maryland Constitutions we would not need a 'Convention of States'.

FOLLOW the LAW, the LAWS, make these corrupt officials respect and follow the law.

SB1073 is a bad and slippery slope,

SAY NO,

Suzanne Price
AACo, MD