

SB 517/HB 785: Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee:

I am writing to express my strong **support** for **SB 517/HB 785**, "Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention."

Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides states with a vital mechanism to propose amendments through a convention called upon application by two-thirds of state legislatures—a process that has never been used but remains an important safeguard for addressing issues Congress may not prioritize. This bipartisan-aligned legislation prepares Maryland proactively and responsibly for such an event by establishing clear, structured procedures for participation.

Key strengths of the bill include:

- Prohibiting commissioners from voting to alter the traditional one-state-one-vote rule or to propose changes that infringe on core individual liberties in the Bill of Rights.
- Ensuring transparency, accountability, and fidelity to Maryland's voice while preventing any "runaway" risks through oversight and revocation authority.

By enacting this framework now—effective June 1, 2026—the General Assembly ensures Maryland is ready to engage effectively and protect its citizens' interests if a convention is called, without committing to one prematurely. This prudent preparation upholds state sovereignty, promotes constitutional integrity, and aligns with the intent for Article V as a check on federal power.

I urge the Committee to give **SB 517/HB 785** a favorable report and advance it for passage. Maryland deserves strong safeguards in place for this constitutional process.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals