

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of:

SJ8 - Senate Joint Resolution Concerning - United States Constitution

Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

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Dear Committee Chair, the Honorable Senator Paul Pinsky, and EHEA Committee Members,

My name is Bob and I live in District 9 along with 781 other voters who want Maryland to call for a convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

According to the Maryland Manual Online, this committee reviews legislation on a variety of topics including agriculture, fire prevention, and school policy, but not on calls for amendments conventions. Because of that, I and 28,000 other Marylanders, ask you to hear our testimony and then pass resolution SJ8 to the full Senate for a discussion and vote.

Now I'd like to discuss a piece of disinformation I feel the full Senate should hear debunked. That's the claim that there are no rules for how to run a Convention of States. That's almost true. The Constitution doesn't have rules for how to do anything, it's a framework, not a cookbook.

The Constitution creates a Congress and gives it law making power and tasks a President with executing those laws. Speaker of the House, Senate Majority Leader and Executive Orders aren't mentioned, but we've got them all. Some days they even seem like a good idea.

The Constitution says we need a Supreme Court, but that's pretty much it. To quote Constitutional Scholar David Barton, "John Roberts at a card table with a candle meets the constitutional requirement for a Supreme Court". And yet we've got Supreme Court, and it rivets our national attention for weeks every time we elect a president. Maybe a few rules would have been a good idea there.

Getting back to amendments, Congress has proposed amendments 33 times and the states adopted 27 of them, without any Constitutional guidance and the same authority granted to the states, just 2 commas, two spaces and two letters later.

So what rules does the Constitution expect us to use? The same ones we always used before. The framers were well aware of how laws get made, how courts operate, and how to hold Conventions of States. You're hearing testimony today about multiple Conventions of States we've already held in the U.S. The one we're asking you to call for today, will do the same thing, the same way, one more time.

Good Afternoon

Respectfully,

Robert (Bob) Betz