

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- Senate Joint Resolution concerning -United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 21, 2022

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

My name is Michael Rilee, and I am State Director for Maryland of Convention of States Action, a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding a culture of self-governance in America.

We are over 28000 Marylanders who have signed up in support of our resolution calling for a convention of states under article V of the US Constitution to discuss and propose constitutional amendments involving a limited set of topics. The topics are 1. federal fiscal restraint, 2. federal overreach, and 3. term limits for federal officials, including Congress. Our numbers have doubled in the last two years, because Marylanders are coming to realize that serious challenges require serious tools. An Article V Convention of States is a powerful tool.

Once 34 states pass the same resolution, we will have the convention. Any amendments to the constitution proposed by the convention would have to be ratified by 38 states to become part of the Constitution. My colleagues will give more details about why we need an Article V Convention of States and how it works.

America is ready for the Convention. I believe that a Convention of States is the right tool to bring us together as a country.

When the convention meets, the whole thing will be under a microscope. Pundits will argue about every point in the debates. There will be a tornado of social media activity.

America will hold a national discussion about where we are, where we're going, and who we want to be as a country.

Given the challenges we face, this discussion is long overdue.

If Massachusetts can pass the resolution to the floor for debate, so can we in Maryland.

Please support our resolution calling for an Article V Convention of States.

Sincerely,

Michael Lee Rilee