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Subject: Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- House Bill – HB 1202 - Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention.

To the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

Dear Committee Chair Anne Healey and the Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Maria Bedard. Thank you for welcoming Convention of States Action Maryland supporters 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 (HB 1202) 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 Delegates, 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.