

HB1202_RichardKaplowitz_UNF
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TESTIMONY ON HB#/1202 - POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Healey, Vice Chair Holmes, Jr., and members of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony against HB#/1202, 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 HB#/1202.**

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/>