

Judi Caler
Citizens Against an Article V Convention
Written Testimony Against Rhode Island H7009
April 16, 2026

Rep. Evan P. Shanley, Chair; Rep. Mary Messier, First Vice Chair; Rep. Arthur J. Corvese, Second Vice Chair; and Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony **against** H7009 (Art. V Convention):

The Real Reason the Framers gave us the Convention Method of Article V

Convention of States (COS) praises Framers George Mason for having given us the convention method of Article V to rein in an out-of-control federal government:

“Are we so naïve as to believe that a federal government that becomes a tyranny, will ever propose amendments to restrain its own tyranny?” —COS President Mark Meckler, pretending to quote Framers George Mason.

But no Framers, including George Mason, ever said or thought that—COS made it up! Our Constitution grants the federal government only enumerated powers. All other powers belong to the States or the People (The Tenth Amendment). An Amendment can’t take away powers that the feds usurped—powers that were never granted to them by the Constitution in the first place. What would the Amendment say? **“And we really mean it this time!”**?

Mason’s point was that if a **provision of the Constitution—NOT the Government**—should prove to be oppressive, the people should have the right to propose Amendments, ***if Congress refuses to propose them***. So the Article V convention process was meant to be used when the abuse was the fault of the Constitution—to fix **defects** in the Constitution.

Our problem isn’t the **language** of the Constitution. Our problem is a **People** problem—like corrupt politicians or Congress failing to follow the Constitution we have. And if those who don’t understand the Constitution start tampering with our Constitution at a convention, you can be sure we’ll lose our Constitution.

Please **Vote NO on H 7009**. Don’t fix what isn’t broken!