

April 16, 2026

To: Rep. Evan Shanley, Chair; Rep. Mary Messier, First Vice Chair; Rep. Arthur Corvese, Second Vice Chair; and Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee:

Re: "No" Vote Urged on H 7009

Dear Representatives:

I am writing to provide support that reflects how vital it is that you vote "No" on H 7009, against applying for an Article V application. Please consider the following quotes from constitutional experts regarding the dangers of a Convention:

1. **"Whatever gain might be hoped for from a new Constitutional Convention could not be worth the risks involved."** – Former Supreme Court Chief Justice [Burger](#)

This quote can be the foundational gateway through which you view all applications for an Article V Convention. According to former Chief Justice Warren Burger, it does not matter how attractive the amendments may or may not be. No matter what they are, no matter what gain might be hoped for, and regardless the problem they are attempting to solve, triggering an Article V Constitutional Convention is not justifiable, due to the horrible risks involved.

2. Two former Supreme Court Justices strongly warned that an Article V Convention would **put our Constitution in jeopardy:**

An Article V Convention would **"challeng[e] [the Constitution's] very existence."**
– Former Supreme Court Chief Justice [Burger](#)

An Article V Convention is **"a profound threat to our Constitution"**, a "volatile," and "dangerous course." – Former Supreme Court Justice [Goldberg](#)

"There is nothing in Article V that prevents a convention from making wholesale changes to our Constitution and Bill of Rights." – Former Supreme Court Justice Goldberg

3. James Madison, the **primary author of our Constitution**, **strongly warned** against triggering an Article V Convention in his day, saying: **“an election into it would be courted by the most violent partizans on both sides”**. He warned: **“At present the public mind is neither sufficiently cool nor sufficiently informed for so delicate an operation.”**

4. It is important to consider all worst case scenarios of a Convention when evaluating the risk. At the last Convention to propose amendments, in 1787, constitutional safeguards were not honored, and in the aftermath, **Rhode Island faced being kicked out of the Union until it ratified the new Constitution:**

“We are induced to **hope** that we shall not be altogether considered as **foreigners**, having no particular affinity, or connection with the United States...”

September, 1789 **letter** from the Rhode Island Legislature to President George Washington

“...Congress will probably find it necessary to treat [the People of Rhode Island] as they are, as **Foreigners**, and extend all the Laws to them as such.” February 28, 1790 **letter** from Vice President John Adams to two prominent Rhode Island merchants.

5. No one can guarantee that the limits that state legislatures try to impose on a Convention would be honored:

“Proponents of a convention may offer assurances that it can be limited to a single issue by saying that the state legislatures have called a convention for the ‘sole and express purpose’ of drafting a balanced budget amendment...Any claim that Congress could, by statute, limit a convention’s agenda is **pure speculation**, and **contrary to a historic precedent**. Such ‘procedures legislation’ might well be **unconstitutional** and would almost certainly be **unenforceable**.” - Former Supreme Court Justice Goldberg

“Congress might try to limit the Convention to one amendment or to one issue, but there is no way to assure that the Convention would obey.” - Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Burger

An Article V Convention is like playing with fire, and a huge threat to our rights. I therefore urge you to vote “No” on H 7009, against applying for an Article V Convention.

Thank you!

Lisa Roulet