



Memo To: House State Government and Elections Committee  
From: Angela Lima, Chief of Government Relations  
Date: Apr 16, 2026  
Regards: Support for Bills H-7792

Honorable Chair, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H-7792. On behalf of the Women's Fund of Rhode Island, we respectfully submit this testimony as a nonpartisan organization committed to informed public policy and sound governance practices.

H-7792 would withdraw prior resolutions adopted by the State of Rhode Island calling for a constitutional convention pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution. This proposal raises important considerations regarding constitutional process, institutional clarity, and the management of state-level applications under Article V.

A constitutional convention, while authorized under the U.S. Constitution, remains an untested mechanism in the modern era, and significant legal and procedural questions remain unresolved. In particular, there is no settled framework governing the scope of such a convention, the method of delegate selection, or enforceable limitations on subject matter once convened. These unresolved structural questions create uncertainty regarding how state applications would be interpreted and implemented in practice.

Supporters of a convention often cite it as a means of addressing perceived federal legislative inaction. However, the existing amendment process under Article V has historically served as the established mechanism for constitutional change, requiring broad consensus among states and Congress. This process provides procedural clarity and a defined sequence of steps that help ensure stability and legitimacy in constitutional amendments.

Concerns have been raised that withdrawal of prior resolutions may limit opportunities for democratic input. However, H-7792 does not affect the ability of the General Assembly to consider future Article V applications. Rather, it ensures that any such consideration is based on current information and reflects deliberate legislative judgment at the time of action.

Given the absence of a codified process for convening and administering a constitutional convention, continued reliance on prior resolutions raises practical and interpretive uncertainties. Addressing those uncertainties through withdrawal is a reasonable exercise of legislative oversight and helps ensure that the state's position is clearly defined.

For these reasons, the Women's Fund of Rhode Island respectfully supports H-7792 (2026) as a measured step to clarify the state's prior applications and to ensure continued reliance on established constitutional amendment procedures.

Thank you for your consideration.