

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: "Yes" Vote Urged on H 7792

Dear Representatives:

Your "Yes" vote on H 7792, to rescind all Article V applications, is very important to help prevent America from being forced into an Article V Convention. Please consider the following quotes from constitutional experts regarding the dangers of a Convention:

1. Two former Supreme Court Justices **recommended that states rescind their Article V applications** because of the incredible danger a Convention presents to our rights.

"In those state legislatures that have previously petitioned for a convention, I propose that those petitions be considered and **withdrawn.**" – Former Supreme Court Justice Goldberg

"...I am glad to see states rescinding their previous resolutions requesting a Convention." - Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Burger

2. These former 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

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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 "Yes" on H 7792 to rescind all of Rhode Island's applications for an Article V Convention.

Thank you!

Lisa Roulet