

WHY WE SUPPORT {RESOLUTION #}, CALLING FOR AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION OF STATES TO LIMIT THE POWER OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

- 1 The federal government is out of control, operating far beyond the scope of its specific, enumerated powers, and simply trying to elect “the right people” is a strategy that has proven unsuccessful. The problem is systemic and demands a systemic solution.
- 2 While there is true that there is nothing “wrong” with the Constitution, the problems we now face are the result of constitutional interpretations that capitalize on ambiguities in the wording of some phrases (i.e., the general welfare clause). If we correct these ambiguities by clarifying the Founding Fathers’ original intentions regarding the limitations of federal power, we can restore the federal government to its proper, limited place.
- 3 HJ9 calls for an Article V Convention whose subject matter is limited to amendments that “impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for Members of Congress.” Thus limited, the possibility of a “runaway convention” resulting in the proposal of a total re-write of the Constitution or repeal the Bill of Rights is incredibly remote. The same 34 State legislatures that will have passed Resolutions calling for limitation of the federal government will be the ones who select the delegates to the Convention.
- 4 Even if the 34 State legislatures calling for limitation of federal power selected rogue delegates who proposed bad amendments, it is completely unrealistic to imagine that an outlandish amendment or re-write of the Constitution would be ratified by the requisite 38 States.
- 5 Against the incredibly remote possibility that any damage would be done to the Constitution by an Article V Convention of the States under these circumstances, those who yearn for the restoration of our republic must weigh the virtual certainty that the American people will be subject to increasing oppression and tyranny if we allow things to continue according to the status quo.
- 6 An Article V Convention of the States is not a new idea, but was the very recourse given to us by the Founding Fathers to correct a federal government that has abused its powers. They recognized the possibility that the federal government might become oppressive, and they entrusted us with this process to restore the balance of power between the federal and state governments.
- 7 If we continue to put off using this process to get our nation back on course, we may soon find ourselves in a situation where even it will be beyond our reach due to substantial changes in the make-up of State legislatures.