



## SAFEGUARD THE CONSTITUTION: OPPOSE IOWA ARTICLE V CON-CON RESOLUTIONS



### Stop Deceptive COS Con-Con Resolutions in Iowa

Iowa state legislators are seeking to pass resolutions applying to Congress to “call a Convention for proposing Amendments,” under [Article V](#) of the U.S. Constitution, otherwise known as a federal [constitutional convention](#) (Con-Con) or “convention of states,” as some erroneously refer to it.

Senate Joint Resolution 2 ([SJR 2](#)) and House Joint Resolution 11 ([HJR 11](#); formerly numbered [HJR 6](#)) follow the wording of Mark Meckler’s Convention of States (COS) Project application to Congress to call a constitutional convention. An explanation of the resolutions, contained in SJR 2, reads:

This joint resolution constitutes an application requesting the United States Congress to call a constitutional convention in order to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for federal officials and for members of Congress. The resolution constitutes a continuing application to call a constitutional convention.

House File 654 ([HF 654](#); formerly numbered [HF 438](#)) and Senate File 350 ([SF 350](#)) have also been introduced. These bills are designed to give false assurance that a convention won’t get out of control, doing this by ostensibly regulating the appointment and conduct of delegates. Such a bill would be [completely useless](#) at preventing a runaway convention — for example, the bills don’t regulate delegates from other states, and it doesn’t prevent delegates from proposing an entirely new constitution (in the 1787 Convention, states [also attempted](#) to limit delegates’ authority).

These vaguely-worded resolutions claim that the constitutional convention is only “for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing amendments” about the topics mentioned, reiterating “and no amendments on any other topic” may be proposed beyond the topics listed. However, ***in reality, any Article V constitutional convention cannot be limited, resulting in a runaway convention that would reverse many of the Constitution’s limitations on government power and interference.***

# The John Birch Society

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In other words, **any Article V convention could accomplish the same goals that many of its advocates claim to be fighting against.** As evidence, both a [2016](#) and [2023 simulated “Convention of States”](#) resulted in amendments massively increasing the federal government and expanding its spending powers.

[Iowa Legislator Exposes COS Dirty Tactics for Constitutional Convention](#)

In the above exclusive interview with *The New American*, state Representative Helena Hayes (R-Iowa) relays her personal story of how a Convention of States Project (COS) leader and co-founder contacted her and attacked The John Birch Society. During the phone conversation, he also characterized assassinated JBS Constitutional educator and speaker [Robert Brown](#) as being a “house painter,” who lacks the credentials and letters behind his name to understand [Article V](#) and the [Constitution](#). Yet this so-called “house painter” is kicking his and COS’s butts so much so that they are resorting to childish name-calling and personal attacks rather than debating the substance of the issue, whether or not the Iowa General Assembly should apply to Congress to call a constitutional convention to propose changes, or amendments, to the U.S. Constitution.

In the interview, Rep. Hayes also shares her shock about how COS put her personal cellphone number in a mass text blast sent to her constituents to contact and pressure her into supporting the COS resolution, which applies to Congress to call a constitutional convention.

Rep. Hayes further expresses her disappointment with COS-sponsored events that she has attended, in which COS speakers again spend more time attacking groups that oppose a convention, such as The John Birch Society and various JBS speakers, rather than utilizing the time to explain the process of an Article V convention or to educate attendees about the alleged merits of a constitutional convention (Con-Con) to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Rep. Hayes concludes the interview explaining her opposition to the idea of [using an Article V convention to rein-in the federal government](#).

The late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia also [understood](#) the danger of a constitutional convention. In 2015, Scalia reiterated his opposition to an Article V convention, stating **“this is not a good century to write a constitution.”** Furthermore, **what kind of delegates would Iowa send to such a convention? Constitutional conservatives or RINO moderates and liberals?**

On December 9, 2021, constitutionalist U.S. Representative [Thomas Massie](#) (R-Ky.), warning against a Con-Con, [tweeted](#):

Show me a single state where Constitutionalists comprise a majority of the state legislature.

At this point in history, an Article V Convention of the States would be a disaster.

In 1979, then-U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, correctly warned about an Article V convention:

If we hold a constitutional convention, every group in the country — majority, minority, middle-of-the-road, left, right, up, down — is going to get its two bits in and we are going to wind up with a constitution that will be so far different from the one we have lived under for 200 years that I doubt that the Republic could continue.

Goldwater is correct. An Article V convention possesses the inherent power to propose **any** changes to the U.S. Constitution, including drafting and proposing an entirely new “modern” (i.e. socialist) constitution. Instead, **the Iowa General Assembly should consider Article VI and nullify unconstitutional laws.**

Furthermore, **state lawmakers should also consider rescinding any and all previously passed Article V convention applications to Congress, regardless of the desired amendment(s).** Passing rescission resolutions will help prevent aggregating past Article V convention applications with those from other states to force Congress to call a convention.

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Above all, **urge your state representative and senator to oppose SJR 2, HJR 11, and all other pro-Article V convention resolutions and to instead consider nullification as a safe and constitutional means to limit government.**

The Harsh Reality of a “Convention of States”