
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Fortunato, Harris, Boehnke, Muzzall, Warnick, and Wagoner

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The founders of our Constitution empowered state
9 legislators to be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power
10 by the federal government; and

11 WHEREAS, The federal government has created a crushing national
12 debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

13 WHEREAS, The federal government has invaded the legitimate roles
14 of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates,
15 most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

16 WHEREAS, The federal government has ceased to live under a proper
17 interpretation of the Constitution of the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, It is the solemn duty of the states to protect the
19 liberty of our people, particularly for the generations to come, by
20 proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States through
21 a convention of the states under Article V of the Constitution, for
22 the purpose of restraining these and related abuses of power;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists, the legislature of the State
2 of Washington, respectfully:

3 (1) Apply to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the
4 Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of
5 the states limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution of the
6 United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal
7 government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal
8 government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for
9 members of Congress; and

10 (2) Adopt this application expressly subject to the following
11 reservations, understandings, and declarations:

12 (a) An application to the Congress of the United States to call
13 an amendment convention of the states pursuant to Article V of the
14 United States Constitution confers no power to Congress other than
15 the power to call such a convention. The power of Congress to
16 exercise this ministerial duty consists solely of the authority to
17 name a reasonable time and place for the initial meeting of a
18 convention.

19 (b) Congress shall perform its ministerial duty of calling an
20 amendment convention of the states only upon the receipt of
21 applications for an amendment convention for the substantially same
22 purpose as this application from two-thirds of the legislatures of
23 the several states.

24 (c) Congress does not have the power or authority to determine
25 any rules for the governing of an amendment convention of the states
26 called pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution.
27 Congress does not have the power to set the number of delegates to be
28 sent by any state to such a convention, nor does it have the power to
29 name delegates to such a convention. The power to name delegates
30 remains exclusively within the authority of the legislatures of the
31 several states.

32 (d) By definition, an amendment convention of the states means
33 that states must vote on the basis of one state, one vote.

34 (e) An amendment convention of the states convened pursuant to
35 this application must be limited to consideration of the topics
36 specified herein and no other. This application is made with the
37 express understanding that an amendment that in any way seeks to
38 amend, modify, or repeal any provision of the Bill of Rights shall
39 not be authorized for consideration at any stage. This application is

1 void ab initio if ever used at any stage to consider any change to
2 any provision of the Bill of Rights.

3 (f) Pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution,
4 Congress may determine whether proposed amendments will be ratified
5 by the legislatures of the several states or by special state
6 ratification conventions. The legislature of the State of Washington
7 recommends that Congress select ratification by the legislatures of
8 the several states.

9 (g) The legislature of the State of Washington may provide
10 further instructions to its delegates and may recall its delegates at
11 any time for a breach of a duty or a violation of the instructions
12 provided.

13 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
14 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United
15 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
16 United States House of Representatives, each member of Congress from
17 the State of Washington, and to the presiding officers of each of the
18 legislative houses in the several states, requesting their
19 cooperation; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Memorial constitutes a
21 continuing application in accordance with Article V of the
22 Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least
23 two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same
24 subject.

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