

# Why Support the Non Partisan COUNTERMAND AMENDMENT?

- The 1787 nation/States created the Federal government! The Federal government did not create the States.
- Article V was inserted in the U.S. Constitution to empower future State Legislatures to modify the conduct of the Federal government when it encroaches on States Rights and personal liberties.
- These words in Article V “...or, on the Application of Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, *shall* call a Convention for *proposing Amendments*, which in either case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, ...” left for future State Legislatures the same sovereign authority and deliberative status retained by their counterparts in 1787 with one limitation - Conventions were to be for “proposing Amendments” only.
- Article V makes Congress a facilitator (not a controller) in the Amendment process from Application to Ratification. It provides for the States a manageable process for initiating and completing Amendments.
- When a proposed Amendment (either through Congress or Article V Amendment Conventions) is ratified by the States, it is obligatory on all branches of the Federal government. State Legislatures are the final arbiters in all Constitutional matters. They are the rudder that steers and protects our Republic for future generations. Legislators are honored statesmen in this process. They, in fact, represent the collective sovereign will of “WE THE PEOPLE”. Consequently, State Legislatures are the most powerful governing bodies in America.
- Constitutional scholars along with pro and anti Article V groups have been paralyzing legislators for the past 40 years by claiming an Article V Convention is a Constitutional Convention. IT IS NOT! It is an “AMENDMENT CONVENTION” for the purpose of *proposing Amendments* – not to make wholesale changes to the Constitution. America had one Constitutional Convention in which the Founders provided a safe quick way to amend and protect the Constitution through Article V.
- The single issue COUNTERMAND AMENDMENT will not change the Constitution. It simply empowers the States to protect States rights and personal liberties of their citizens codified in the Constitution.
- The preapproved text of the Countermand Amendment by the Legislatures and the preapproved Delegate Resolution that binds delegates as ambassadors of their Legislatures (not free agents), assures that the Countermand Amendment Convention will be safe, quick (as little as 7 days) and successful. The Convention will be organized with each State Delegation having one vote and a simple majority will decide every ballot. The final decision of State Delegations at the Countermand Amendment Convention will be – should the Countermand Amendment [as written] be sent back to the States for ratification. **Each sovereign State in our Republic will have equal standing from Application to Ratification as guaranteed in Article IV, 4.**

The Countermand Amendment will empower the States to Countermand and rescind any Federal law or regulation that violates States Rights or personal liberties. When 60% of the States agree on a specific Countermand the law or ruling is automatically rescinded. The Federal government can rewrite the law

in a way more amenable to the States or abandon it. The States now become respected partners in government, not subjects to Federal mandates.

With the Countermand Amendment States retain their sovereign deliberative authority. **WE THE PEOPLE** will be able to petition legislators to seek relief from specific encroachments by the Federal government. Each State Legislature can establish its own *Countermand Committee* to: 1) select and countermand encroachments adversely affecting their State: and 2) notify other State Countermand Committees of its action requesting they join them by exercising a similar countermand. The Amendment will stop Federal encroachments on: enumerated rights; un-enumerated rights (each rescission constitutionalizes a States Right in 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment); privacy; free markets; Congressional budgets; Court decisions; regulatory rulings; taxes; energy; Executive Orders; unfunded liabilities; healthcare; social issues; and more. Intentional violators of the Amendment can be prosecuted under Federal or State laws.

**IMPORTANT:**

**TEMPLATE - Legislatures should use when making APPLICATIONS on Congress for the Article V Countermand Amendment Convention - go to:**

[http://citizeninitiatives.org/Legislators/Art\\_5\\_Application.pdf](http://citizeninitiatives.org/Legislators/Art_5_Application.pdf) It is optional for Legislatures to insert the Countermand Amendment text in their APPLICATION.

**TEMPLATE - Legislatures should use this same or similar North Carolina Countermand Amendment DELEGATE RESOLUTION that binds delegates sent to a Convention – go to:**

[http://citizeninitiatives.org/Legislators/NCGA\\_3188-0.pdf](http://citizeninitiatives.org/Legislators/NCGA_3188-0.pdf)

**Step by Step instructions to legislators for completing the Countermand Amendment “Application” go to:**

[http://citizeninitiatives.org/Legislators/Step\\_by\\_Step\\_Instr\\_Alone\\_8-3-15.pdf](http://citizeninitiatives.org/Legislators/Step_by_Step_Instr_Alone_8-3-15.pdf)

**For a copy of the non partisan Countermand Amendment text go to:**

<http://www.countermands.us/countermand-amendment.html>

**CITIZEN INITIATIVES**  
***Countermand Amendment***

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