

## THE MADISON COALITION: RESTORING A BALANCE OF STATE AND FEDERAL POWER



### EMPOWER THE STATES TO REIN IN WASHINGTON!

The entire nation sees how dysfunctional Washington has become. The time is now ideal for an effort to rein in Washington by empowering states as the authors of the Constitution believed they should be. **MADISON COALITION** is working with legislative leaders around the nation on a unique new concept to empower states.

- Strategy calls for passing a "no runaway convention/empower the states" law in at least the 27 state legislatures controlled by Republicans plus many others. In 2013-14 legislative cycle we need to educate legislators, draft, introduce and if possible pass such legislation in as many as possible of those 27 states.
- Goal of proposed "Madison" state legislation is to prevent risk of a runaway Article V Convention and thereby empower 2/3 (34) of states to safely force Congress to propose a specific Amendment to U.S. Constitution, and would strictly limit the authority of any delegates a state might send to an Article V Convention to the precise scope of the State's Article V Resolution.
- Congress has always proposed an Amendment enough states wanted rather than call a Convention. If 2/3 of the states had the power to safely force Congress to propose a specific Amendment without a convention, the balance of power between states and Washington would be fundamentally improved.
- State constitutional amendments in 13 states could block ratification of any runaway amendment not authorized by the states who called for the convention. A "protect the constitution" U.S. House Rule and Senate pledge by at least 41 U.S. Senators could block referral to the states for ratification of an unauthorized, unconstitutional "runaway amendment."

### **Regulation Freedom Amendment**

- *"Whenever one quarter of the Members of the U.S. House or the U.S. Senate transmit to the President their written declaration of opposition to a proposed federal regulation, it shall require a majority vote of the House and Senate to adopt that regulation."*
- An important new American **idea** for empowering states to stop the abuse of power by federal regulators
- SO -- a growing number of Americans believe there is a way to empower STATES to FORCE Congress to propose this idea as an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
- It would be empowering states to force CONGRESS to propose the Amendment, but NOT holding a Constitutional Convention.
- If 1/4 of U.S. House or Senate OBJECTED to a proposed federal regulation, Congress would have to approve that regulation for it to take effect.

How can the **Regulation Freedom Amendment** rein in power of federal agencies that Presidents have used to implement their agenda without consent of Congress? How can we empower the states to force Congress to propose such an Amendment?

- Answer is--a coalition of Americans who favor limited government is now working to get a majority of states (the 27 states with Republican majorities in the legislature) to pass a new kind of **Tenth Amendment Law** similar to SB 224 (<http://legiscan.com/IN/text/SB0224>) recently signed by Governor Mike Pence in Indiana.

**Tenth Amendment Law (new)**

- A new law that would empower states to enforceably limit the scope of an Article V convention they threaten to an up or down vote on just a single amendment and thus force Congress to propose the Amendment states want; would implement the 10th Amendment power of states to limit the authority of any delegates that state might send to an Article V Convention and to replace and punish any delegate who violates the law.
- If we can get a majority of states with a majority of the U.S. population to pass this kind of **Tenth Amendment Law** we can empower 2/3 of the states to FORCE Congress to propose the EXACT Amendment those states want. We know that the Constitution gives 2/3 of the states the power to FORCE Congress to call a Convention, but since very few people want a Convention, that power of the states has been almost unusable. Congress HATES the idea of a Convention that is more powerful than Congress and will do almost ANYTHING to avoid one. CONGRESS IS NOT STUPID ENOUGH TO WANT A CONVENTION THAT WOULD BE MORE POWERFUL THAN CONGRESS. So, if states can FORCE Congress to CHOOSE between proposing an Amendment States want and calling a Convention, Congress will propose the Amendment. But to safely force Congress to make this choice, states must be absolutely sure the Convention they THREATEN is strictly limited to an UP OR DOWN VOTE on the exact amendment states want. If we can get a majority of states with a majority of the population to pass such a **Tenth Amendment Law**, a majority of delegates at any Convention would be committed to a limited Convention.

But remember, Congress will almost certainly NEVER call a Convention. They will vote, just like they always have, to propose the Amendment states want to AVOID a convention. So by passing these Tenth Amendment laws, a majority of states can empower 2/3 (34) of the states to force Congress to propose the Amendment they want. This helps to restore the original balance of power between the state and federal government intended by the authors of our Constitution.

We are building grassroots support among Americans in states with Republican majorities in the legislature for both the **Regulation Freedom Amendment** and for the new **Tenth Amendment Law** that will empower states to force Congress to propose an Amendment states want. Volunteers and legislators are helping us all over the nation. PLEASE JOIN US!

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Here is what we ask ---

- ( ) Support the **Regulation Freedom Amendment** to require that Congress approve major new federal regulations.
- ( ) Support passage of a **Tenth Amendment Law** state law to empower 2/3 of states to force Congress to propose a specific Amendment those states want.
- ( ) Tell your American friends about this idea and ask for their support.
- ( ) Send names and contact info of people you think we should be advising of this issue.
- ( ) Consider contacting state legislators you know to urge them to consider this effort.

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**THE MADISON COALITION**--Idea of empowering states to propose a specific Amendment was originally proposed by Ed Meese when he was Reagan's Attorney General. When he told us about his idea 3 years ago we went to some of the top Constitutional lawyers in Washington. A team led by David Rivkin, a lawyer for 26 states who sued to overturn Obamacare, developed our legal strategy. Former VA Governor George Allen has agreed to serve as National Co-Chair. Supporters of Empowering States to propose a specific amendment include: former Comptroller General of the U.S. David Walker, former VA Gov. George Allen, Indiana State Senate President David Long, current and former Chairs of the American Conservative Union, David Keene and Al Cardenas, Parental Rights.Org Chair Mike Farris, former U.S. House Appropriations Chair Bob Livingston, McCain 2008 chair Charlie Black, Lew Uhler, David McIntosh, David Keating, a bipartisan group of former Chairs of CSG, Council of State Governments, NCSL, and ALEC; 2012 RNC Rules Committee Chair Bruce Ash, 2012 RNC Redistricting Committee Chair John Ryder, former RNC General Counsel David Norcross; and Martha Boneta at Liberty Farms in VA.

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