

New York State Bar Association

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Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
The Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As you know, the New York State Bar Association urged last fall that, in anticipation of the 2017 vote, a preparatory commission be established to do the necessary research and education in advance of a possible constitutional convention. We were very pleased when you included the creation of a commission in your budget submission, and we express our appreciation for your having taken this action.

Unfortunately, the budget, as adopted, did not include the establishment of the Commission. However, previous commissions have been established by executive order. In 1937, Governor Lehman took this action in advance of the 1938 convention. Similarly, your father, as Governor, created a commission in 1993. We believe that the Governor's authority to do this is well established, and we now urge you to again create a commission by executive order. With the vote on whether to hold a convention to be on the ballot in November, 2017, we can no longer wait for legislative approval. Time is already short. Thus, if a commission is to be appointed and be successful in its work, it is essential that you issue an order without delay.

Again, we appreciate all you have done, and now urge that you take action to establish the type of commission that we know you have supported.

Respectfully,

David P. Miranda