

To the honorable committee members 11/9/16

Term limits is not a confusing policy issue. It's about as straight forward as an issue can get. Should we limit the time an individual can hold a single political office. Polling shows voters say yes. But how can this be when incumbents are elected over and over again? Yesterday, voters turned out en-masse to choose our congressmen and one third of our senators. Were so many incumbents re-elected because voters loved the candidates? No, a large percentage of voters were voting against the opposition party.

As elected officials you are aware of the edge one has by way of incumbency. Each of you know congressional candidates who don't face any real campaign challenge once their primary has been decided. Incumbents have a significant advantage. Incumbents are rarely challenged in a primary. Incumbents get PAC money and lobbyist donations because they already hold an office. The only way to break up the advantage of incumbency in Washington is to impose term limits on congress.

When given the option voters support term limits by wide margins. In 1992 Michigan voters approved term limiting their own congressional delegation 59%-41%. Voters were informed that being one of a few states that term limiting our delegation could put us at a disadvantage when congress negotiated the federal budget, and they still overwhelmingly chose term limits. Michigan voters are not alone, 22 other states joined Michigan in limiting their congressional delegations. In 1995 the Supreme Court of the United States ruled term limits must be imposed equally and could not be done state by state.

Congress has been unwilling to enact term limits upon themselves. There is only one other option, state legislatures must call for an amendment convention to propose term limits per Article V of the US Constitution. We, the voters are depending on you. You are the check on congress.

Our founders knew issues would arise and the solution would not be forthcoming from the federal government. To facilitate the coordinated implementation of those reforms, the delegates sent by the state legislatures included Article V in the US Constitution. Article V reserved to the states the power issue resolutions calling for a convention to propose amendments. Voters are depending on you to take this step. You can invoke the power written into our constitution by the founders for just this type of situation.

Please pass HJR TT.

Thank you,

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