



CONVENTION *of* STATES ACTION MARYLAND

6280 Light Point Place
Columbia, Maryland 20145

February 27, 2021

Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, Maryland House of
Delegates

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

I am Steve Shapero from Columbia, Maryland, a retired private school teacher who now teaches constitutional principles through my Constitutional Minute video series for the Convention of States Maryland Action team.

In the late 16th century, after the colonists declared their independence, simple farmers and craftsmen took up the mantle to lead our country as participants in a great experiment of freedom. Transitioning out from a monarchy which levied unwarranted taxes and imposed unpopular policies upon its people, these simple colonists traveled to the Nation's Capital to meet and discuss the business of running our newly found republic.

They were not looking to make a career out of Federal Government; they took time away from farming their crops and running their businesses to serve the people who elected them to be their representatives, and though some stayed on to serve again, the mantle was passed along to other elected leaders that they might return to their farms and businesses as regular citizens.

Today, people earn university degrees to become career politicians and stay in their positions for however long they can survive their reelection campaigns. If only it was for just the desire to serve their constituents, but today we see fighting across the aisles, leaders in both houses that will not allow debate on important issues, bills bundled strategically so as to bargain for policies that could not otherwise make it through on their own

merits, and fights over procedure to then inflict action on regular Americans whose voices simply want representation.

Term limits should be imposed, not only on Members of Congress but also on top level bureaucrats, such as directors of the FBI, CIA, and the IRS whose policy decisions affect every citizen. Add to that term limits on Federal judges and Supreme Court Justices, who are fallible human beings, many of whom legislate from the bench instead of interpreting the Constitution.

Sure, if we pass term limits, I'll miss my favorite representatives when it is time for them to give up their office, but we cannot continue down our current road, which contorts the intent of the framers who gave us the republic we must preserve.

I urge you to pass HJ0006 out of Committee and on to the floor for debate and passage so Maryland can be a leader in addressing all of these issues.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Steve Shapero
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