

Testimony by Jakob DeBoar in Favor of SJ0002 Convention of States.

Dear Committee Members,

Most people know what term limits are, but not many people know the true value of them and how they were formed and implemented.

Term limits were first introduced to the government on February 27, 1951 via the 22nd amendment. This prevented people, after President Franklin Roosevelt, from serving more than two terms in a row as president.

Term limits are crucial to governmental structure, as they prevent presidents from making biased decisions to retain power and an oppressive and possibly authoritarian government from forming, and a leader from becoming separated from their duty to serve the people's needs.

This tendency of human nature is not limited to just our Commander in Chief.

In the present, most elected government officials are allowed to serve an unlimited number of terms, which leaves them susceptible to the same problems and may be the reason that we have surpassed our debt ceiling by trillions.

For instance, public officials could be coerced through large donations or risk of losing an election into supporting laws that a well-connected group of people demand - even if, in their opinion, these laws aren't best for the country as a whole.

When elected officials are more heavily influenced by wealthy donors and connected individuals than their own constituents - then they represent special interests rather than the everyday people.

Additionally, older politicians taking up the limited seats of government prevent new and innovative ideas from forming from younger leaders. This leads us to the point where officials push the status quo for the special interest groups, mocking the design of our representative government, and skipping generations of office holders.

Term limits minimize the amount politicians would be susceptible to lobbyists and their financial influence, and establish safety buffers to protect against negative

consequences for the country. They also would allow for new and younger people to be involved and to overall improve our society for our citizens.

This resolution gives a way to solve the problem of leaving generations and their ideas behind in running the government.

I appreciate your time to hear me and request that you vote favorable on this joint resolution to send it to the floor for debate. Thank you.