

Testimony by Jakob DeBoar in Favor of HJ0002 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 dictatorial government from forming, and a leader from separated from their duty to serve the people's needs.

This nuance 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 bribes 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.

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 people to be involved and to overall improve our society for our citizens.

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.