

Public Testimony in Support of Stronger Legislative Term Limits in Maryland

I am writing in support of establishing term limits for members of the Maryland General Assembly, but I urge lawmakers to strengthen the current proposal by reducing the limit to two terms and by ensuring that the limits take effect immediately rather than being delayed.

The bill's current proposal of four terms still allows legislators to remain in office for many years. While experience in public office can be valuable, long tenures can also concentrate political power and reduce opportunities for new voices and ideas to emerge. Limiting service to two terms would encourage a healthy rotation of leadership, bring fresh perspectives into the legislature, and help ensure that elected officials remain closely connected to the communities they serve.

Additionally, the proposal to delay some of the applicability of term limits until after 2030 undermines the purpose of the reform. If term limits are necessary to strengthen accountability and prevent entrenched political power, they should begin as soon as possible. Delaying implementation allows current officeholders to avoid the very reform the policy is meant to create.

Term limits should apply equally and fairly, and they should begin immediately so that voters can see meaningful reform rather than a promise of change years in the future. Establishing a two-term limit that takes effect right away would demonstrate a genuine commitment to transparency, accountability, and public trust.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge lawmakers to amend the bill to limit service to two terms and to implement the limits immediately rather than delaying them.

Thank you,
Kaylee Cooper