

Testimony in Support of HCR 5001 - Congressional Term Limits

Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee

February 26, 2025

Chairman Kessler and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HCR 5001, calling for an Article V Convention to propose a Congressional term limits amendment. I am Shanna Chamblee, and I represent U.S. Term Limits.

Congress Will Act Only When the States Force Their Hand

One of the most compelling reasons to pass this resolution is that history shows Congress will preempt a single-subject convention once they see the states uniting to do it themselves. The Framers gave us Article V precisely for moments like this-when Congress refuses to act in the people's interest.

A perfect example of this is the 17th Amendment, which established direct election of Senators. When state legislatures came within one state of calling a convention to propose it, Congress acted to pass the amendment themselves rather than risk losing control of the process. We are witnessing the same pressure building for term limits today. As more states pass resolutions like HCR 5001, Congress will be forced to act rather than allow a convention of states to take control of the issue.

Overwhelming, Bipartisan Public Support

Congressional term limits are not a partisan issue-they are a unifying cause. A Pew Research poll found that 87% of Americans support term limits for Congress, including majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. There are very few policies in America that unite the political spectrum like this one.

Yet, despite this overwhelming public demand, Congress refuses to act. The career politicians in Washington have built a system that prioritizes seniority and entrenched power over fresh ideas and citizen representation. That is why the states must take action.

Why Congress Needs Term Limits

The Founders never intended for Congress to become a class of lifelong politicians. They envisioned

a citizen legislature where individuals would serve for a time and then return to their communities.

Instead, we now have a system where:

- Incumbents win re-election over 90% of the time, largely due to fundraising advantages, name recognition, and gerrymandering.
- The longer members stay in Congress, the wealthier they become, often benefiting from insider knowledge and special interest connections.
- Congressional approval ratings hover between 15-25%, yet election outcomes rarely change due to entrenched incumbency.

Term limits would break this cycle, ensuring fresh leadership, reducing corruption, and restoring accountability to the people.

Conclusion

The American people have spoken clearly: they want term limits on Congress. But Congress will never impose limits on themselves. That is why we need states like Kansas to take a stand and pass HCR 5001. By doing so, you will send a clear message that the people, not career politicians, are in charge of this country.

Kansas has a proud history of standing for good governance and principled leadership. I urge you to pass this resolution and help lead the way toward term limits in Washington DC.

Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions.

~Shanna Chamblee

334-235-0650

Regional Director

U.S. Term Limits