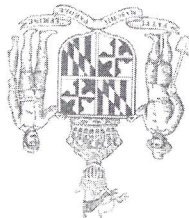


Mike McKay  
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HJ5 - United States Constitution - Amendments Convention - Congressional Term Limits Amendment

March 2, 2020

Chairwoman Healey and Members of the Rules Committee,

This year, I've introduced HJ5, joint resolution in the Maryland General Assembly to call for a national convention of the states to establish a constitutional amendment on congressional term limits. Under Article V of the US Constitution, two-thirds of state legislatures can "team up" for a constitutional convention. More than a dozen states have passed similar resolutions, but Maryland would be the first to propose term limits on members of Congress.

Professional campaigner, career politician – during an election year, we hear these terms all the time. In most lines of work, tenure is something to be lauded and respected, but in politics it's a dirty word – and for good reason. The politicians who have established decades-long residence within the beltway bubble have lost sight of the job they were initially sent there to do. Delivering positive results for constituents back home takes a back seat to wielding political influence on the DC cocktail circuit.

What's happening in Washington is not working. It's broken, and we really need to listen to the American people on this issue. A recent Gallup survey finds that congressional term limits are supported by 82 percent of Republicans, 79 percent of Independents, and 65 percent of Democrats nationwide. When both Republicans and Democrats overwhelmingly support any issue, it's imperative that we work together to address it.

Right here in Maryland, our state legislature has historically and proudly worn the mantle of a citizen legislature. The majority of our state legislators balance their legislative duties with their personal and professional lives. We buckle down for 90 days out of the year in Annapolis to tackle important issues like the state budget, but when we return to our districts, we return as neighbors and friends rather than as campaigners.

Unfortunately, Washington doesn't operate in the same way. From the time Congressmen and Senators first set foot in DC, they're embroiled by the political swamp. They spend more time working to meet their fundraising goals than they spend reading through bills, and expanding their own political influence becomes more important than influencing legislation that would help their district. By placing term limits on members of Congress, we would contribute to Washington the benefits provided by Maryland's citizen legislature – a consistent and necessary influx of new experiences, ideas, and backgrounds from folks who are asking how much they can get done when they get there, not how long they can stay.

Thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Delegate Mike McKay