

**COMMITTEE TESTIMONY**  
**In Support of Senate Joint Resolution No. 6**  
**Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

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I have a trivia question for you. What is the one issue that President Donald Trump and former President Barack Obama agree on?

The answer is term limits. Despite disagreeing on everything else, Trump and Obama agree we need term limits for Congress. President Obama called term limits quote “a really useful thing because we want to see new voices and new ideas emerge.” President Trump said “we have to break the cycle...we have to give new voices a chance to go into government.”

The people of Ohio agree. According to pollster Scott Rasmussen, congressional term limits is the most popular and bipartisan issue in Ohio with support from 80% of Republicans and 82% of Democrats. In the same poll, 74% of Ohioans regardless of party said it was UNFAIR that the Ohio legislature has term limits but Congress does not. In this divided political climate, this type of unity around one issue is amazing.

We all know something is broken in congressional elections. At this point, it’s easier to get struck by lightning *twice* than to unseat an incumbent in Congress. You’d have better odds walking onto the Bengals as a starting quarterback. The American people are fed up with what they see in Washington, and who can blame them?

But when they look closer to home — at places like this chamber — there’s more trust. State legislatures work better because you’re not here to build empires. You’re here as citizen legislators. You serve your time, you stay connected to your communities, and then you return to your careers, your families, your lives. That’s public service. That’s how Congress should work, too.

But here’s the catch: Congress will never limit itself. Asking Congress to pass term limits on their own power is like asking a fox to guard the henhouse. That’s why SJR 6 is so important. This resolution is Ohio’s chance to apply pressure to get it done.

People sometimes worry about the word “convention.” But history shows us how this works. The Constitution has never had a convention for amendments in 248 years. But it *has* had Congress respond to the threat of one — more than once. The 17th Amendment, for example — the one that gave us direct election of Senators — was stuck in Congress for decades. Nothing happened... until the states started passing resolutions. Once they did, Congress panicked and proposed the amendment themselves. The Bill of Rights itself was also proposed in response to threats of a convention.

This issue is no different. If 25 or 30 states call for a term limits convention, Congress will see the writing on the wall and act first. That's the playbook. That's how it has always happened. Congress will ultimately propose this amendment.

Passing this is how Ohio can lead — not just for itself, but for the entire country. This is how we bring accountability back to Congress. The people want congressional term limits. This resolution is how we get them there.

I urge you to vote YES. I'd be glad to answer any questions.