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OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Chairman Brett Hillyer
Ohio House of Representatives Civil Justice Committee
77 S. High St.
11th Fl.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Hillyer,

Thank you for allowing me to provide written proponent testimony for HCR 18 and HR 57. I appreciate the opportunity to share my support for these important resolutions.

HCR 18 and HR 57 both stand for the rule of law by encouraging Congress to maintain the number of justices on the United States Supreme Court. Modifying the number of justices on the Supreme Court for political advantage, or as it is more commonly referred to, “court packing,” is a dangerous political move that threatens American confidence in an impartial judiciary. The number of justices is set by statute, with the present number being set in 1869. In the last 152 years there have been 2 attempts at court packing, but both were defeated.

The Supreme Court’s legitimacy is derived from its impartiality. Justices are not “Republican Justices” or “Democrat Justices.” Rather they are non-partisan individuals who call balls and strikes. Even when we do not agree with the conclusion the Court comes to, we follow the law because we believe in the institution itself. This is why I have advocated for a constitutional amendment solidifying the number of Justices on the court at nine and removing the power from the potential whims of politicians in Congress. This is why I support HCR 18, which calls for that exact amendment, and HR 57, which advocates for Congress to leave the number of justices at 9. I urge this committee and all of its members to quickly pass HCR 18 and HR 57.

I would like to thank Representative Schmidt and Representatives Click and Bird for their leadership on this critical issue. Please feel free to reach out to my office at your convenience with any questions.

Yours,

Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General