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PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

May 25, 2021 – Testimony

To the House Civil Justice Committee:

The United States Supreme Court exists, at its most basic level, to provide checks and balances that prevent the abuse of power by a president or Congress. Though the constitution is silent on how many justices may serve on the Supreme Court there has been no change to the number since 1869. It goes without saying that 9 justices have served us well these years through many of the most powerfully formative issues our country has faced.

We must remind ourselves that whether our justices number 9 or 90, they are to be the best of us. That is their charge. They are to be free of political sway and cronyism. They are to put our country first and not it's partisanship. They are to put our people first, not some of them but all. Changing the number of justices in no way changes these facts.

The last time this effort was attempted it failed. In 1937 Franklin D Roosevelt engaged in an effort to expand the court and the American people disagreed.

As a country we need the Supreme Court to remain an independent branch of government. This is most true when tensions are at their highest. An attempt to pack the Supreme Court would do nothing more than further divide our already divided country. If any one party succeeds in packing the court with its own perceived favorable justices it will happen endlessly each time the competing political party gains favor. This cannot serve our county well.

For these reasons it is the position of the Clermont County Prosecutor's office that the integrity of our United States Supreme Court requires that its number stands firm at 9 justices.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Tekulve
Clermont County Prosecuting Attorney