

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to address you today.

I am Shanna Chamblee, the Legislative Director for the Organization U.S. Term Limits. I come before you today to urge this committee to vote in favor of sending HCR5005 to the House floor for a vote. This is the second year that Representative Sutton has brought this resolution forward, we are thrilled that it is having the opportunity now to be heard in this committee.

Term Limits on Congress is the highest polling non-partisan issue in the country with 82% of voters nationally asking to see this happen. Term Limits will level the playing by eliminating the system of seniority and will also bring about more competitive elections. Samantha Pettey – an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts conducted a study in 2018 which found that Term Limits encourage more women to run for political office, her study was specific to State Legislature research since we do not yet have Congressional term limits to study. When seats are open, a greater pool of electable candidates emerge, giving voters true variety and choice in who represents them.

Term limits would reduce the power and influence of special interest groups and lobbyists, who often hold significant sway over long-serving Congresspeople. U.S. Senator Rand Paul has said: "Term limits are essential to restore accountability to our political system and ensure that elected officials are responsive to the needs of the people they serve." And Former President Barrack Obama said: "Term limits would provide opportunities for new individuals to bring their unique skills, experiences, and perspectives to the table." - Barack Obama. Members of your own Kansas Congressional Delegation are in favor of Term Limits as well, Representatives LaTurner and Mann along with Senator Marshall are cosponsors on the Federal piece of legislation calling for Term Limits on Congress.

Now that I have highlighted a few reasons that Term Limits are a popular idea, I will address the Elephant in the room: How do YOU as a state Legislator have a part to play in helping to one day establish term limits on members of U.S. Congress? Our Framers of the our Constitution knew that the document that they created as an outline for which to govern our Country would at times need to be Amended, the amendment provision provided is Article V. Article V gives 2 pathways by which an amendment proposal can be made to the Constitution and then gives all of the power to the STATES to ratify or reject a proposal. The important takeaway here is that it is the States who hold the power. Per Article V a proposal can be made for an amendment by Congress after passing a super majority of both chambers OR, key word OR by Convention upon the application of two-thirds of the states. We are asking you to simply vote in favor of using your State's Constitutional Authority to be one of those applications asking to convene the States for the one sole purpose of proposing an Amendment to establish Term Limits on Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and members of the U.S. Senate.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for your time and attention. I will stand for questions and am willing to be called for questions after the testimonies of others if requested.