

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding this important topic. My name is Mike Riley and I live nearby in Lebanon. I have been volunteering as the Legislative Advocate with U.S. Term Limits for over three years working on having the Pennsylvania General Assembly pass an Article V application for a Congressional Term Limits Amendment. This is a reform I strongly believe in and one that can make an improvement in our representation in Congress. I have been having conversations with legislators here in Harrisburg to encourage them to support this important reform and it is good to see some of you here today.

I have been attending grassroots events throughout the state to discuss and educate people on using the Article V convention process to propose a Congressional Term Limits Amendment. From those discussions, I can tell you the local citizens are extremely supportive of implementing term limits. In most instances, I do not even get to finish my statement before they are asking where they need to sign up to support this effort. These discussions have proven two things to me. First, this is not a partisan issue because I am not asking what party they are affiliated with and they are not asking me if I am a progressive or conservative-minded individual. Second, this shows the poll referenced by the US Term Limits organization is absolutely true. As of today, we have approximately 25,000 supporters throughout the state that have signed a petition in support of the Pennsylvania General Assembly joining other state legislatures to propose this amendment. The citizens of this Commonwealth want you to act!

The Article V convention is the mechanism that the Framers gave to the state legislatures to propose needed amendments, especially when Congress refuses to propose them, which is obviously is the case with a Congressional Term Limits Amendment. The only realistic chance we have of imposing term limits on Congress is if our state legislators stand with over 80% of the American people and pass an Article V application for this single-subject, non-partisan amendment.

I strongly encourage this legislative body to act on this. Your constituents support this concept and all we are asking is for the Commonwealth to provide for this meeting and conversation to happen.

Thank you for allowing me to speak, I am ready to answer any questions you might have.

Michael Riley