Testimony from Kenn Quinn with U.S. Term Limits in Support of SJR12

Dear Chairman Guth and committee members,

My name is Kenn Quinn and I am the Regional Director with US Term Limits. I am here today to testify in support of SJR12 not only on behalf of our organization, **but more importantly on behalf of the 82% of the American people** who want Congressional Term Limits (*see attached surveys).*

The American people have desired term limits on Congress for decades. Back in the 1990's, twenty-three states passed laws placing term limits on their own congressional delegations, most of these were passed by the people at the ballot box. Unfortunately, in 1995, the U.S. Supreme Court in ***U.S. Term Limits v. Thornton***, overturned all of those laws and ruled that congressional term limits could only be imposed by an amendment to the Constitution under Article V.

The Framers provided **the state legislatures equal authority with Congress** to propose amendments under Article V. Since 1789, Congress has introduced over **12,000 amendments** to the Constitution while the **state legislatures have introduced by zero amendments.** Obviously, we cannot expect two-thirds of both Houses of Congress to propose an amendment that would limit their time in office, therefore, **We the People, are asking you** to use the authority the Framers gave you to be our voice and to propose a Congressional Term Limits Amendment on behalf of the American people.

At the 1787 Federal Convention Benjamin Franklin stated the following; *Sir, there are two passions which have a powerful influence on the affairs of men. These are ambition and avarice; the love of power, and the love of money. Separately each of these has great force in prompting men to action; but when united in view of the same object, they have in many minds the most violent effects. Place before the eyes of such men, a post of honor that shall be at the same time a place of profit, and they will move heaven and earth to obtain it."*

Today, we know too well the truth of how the love of power and money has affected members of Congress. The time has come to **reform Congress to be a body of citizen legislators** who serve for a limited time and return home to live under the laws they passed, instead of lifelong career politicians.

Benefits of Congressional Term Limits:

- Provide fair and competitive elections making it possible for ordinary people to win seats.
- Allow more people from a variety of backgrounds to participate in our government.
- Give voters more choices at the ballot box which will also help to increase voter participation.
- Send new people with fresh ideas to Congress to fix the problems Congress refuses to fix.
- Reduce big money in politics because currently 97% of corporate PAC money goes to incumbents.
- Fulfill the will of the American people who have been demanding term limits for decades.

In closing, I encourage you to please review the attached polls showing overwhelming support from people across the political spectrum for Congressional Term Limits and to vote to pass SJR12.

Sincerely,

Kenn Quinn
U.S. Term Limits

PULSE OPINION RESEARCH

IOWA STATEWIDE CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS POLL: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Iowa Survey of 500 Likely Voters Conducted January 20-21, 2020
by Pulse Opinion Research

Survey Summary: The results of this recently completed statewide survey show that Iowa voters overwhelmingly support term limits for members of Congress. Support for term limits is broad across all political and demographic groups. **An overwhelming 75% of voters approve of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will place term limits on U.S. Senators and U.S. House Representatives.** Large majorities also say that Congress members stay in power for too long, and that they're more likely to support state lawmakers who help advance congressional term limits.

Do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove of placing term limits on members of Congress?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Other Party
Approve	**75%**	**80%**	**69%**	**77%**
Strongly	48%	50%	44%	51%
Somewhat	27%	30%	25%	26%
Disapprove	**18%**	**14%**	**24%**	**16%**
Somewhat	10%	7%	15%	8%
Strongly	8%	7%	9%	8%
Not Sure	**7%**	**6%**	**7%**	**7%**

If the state legislatures of two-thirds of the state's vote to call an amendment-proposing convention to recommend an amendment to place term limits on members of Congress, would you want your state senator and state representative to vote yes or no on this bill?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Other Party
Yes	**72%**	**74%**	**68%**	**74%**
No	15%	15%	20%	9%
Not sure	13%	11%	12%	17%

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PULSE OPINION RESEARCH

Would you be more/less likely to vote for a candidate for State Legislature who supports implementing term limits for members of Congress?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Other Party
More likely	**76%**	**76%**	**75%**	**76%**
Much more likely	48%	50%	47%	46%
Somewhat more likely	28%	26%	28%	30%
Less likely	**13%**	**15%**	**14%**	**10%**
Somewhat less likely	8%	11%	6%	7%
Much less likely	5%	4%	9%	3%
Not sure	**10%**	**8%**	**10%**	**13%**

Would you be more/less likely to vote for a candidate for State Legislature who opposes implementing term limits for members of Congress?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Other Party
More Likely	**39%**	**40%**	**38%**	**39%**
Much more likely	18%	23%	16%	16%
Somewhat more likely	21%	17%	22%	23%
Less likely	**48%**	**48%**	**52%**	**45%**
Somewhat less likely	21%	24%	19%	20%
Much less likely	27%	24%	33%	25%
Not sure	**13%**	**12%**	**11%**	**16%**

At present the Iowa State Legislature does NOT have term limits on itself. However, if your state legislator voted to place term limits on Congress through an amendment proposing convention, in the next statewide election, would that make you much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely or much less likely to vote for your state legislator?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Other Party
More likely	**74%**	**75%**	**68%**	**79%**
Much more likely	40%	43%	36%	41%
Somewhat more likely	34%	32%	32%	38%
Less likely	**14%**	**12%**	**21%**	**9%**
Somewhat less likely	10%	10%	13%	7%
Much less likely	4%	2%	8%	2%
Not sure	**12%**	**13%**	**11%**	**12%**

Conclusions: Iowa voters overwhelmingly support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution limiting the terms of all U.S. Senators and U.S. House of Representatives. The intensity of this support is measured in their willingness to vote for state legislators who will vote "yes" on term limits and against those who will vote "no" against term limits on members of Congress.

Methodology: This poll of 500 likely voters in Iowa was conducted January 20-21, 2020, using an automated polling methodology. To reach those who have abandoned traditional landline telephones, Pulse Opinion Research uses an online survey tool to interview randomly selected participants from a demographically diverse panel. This accounts for 25% of the panel. Pulse Opinion Research determines its partisan weighting targets through a dynamic weighting system that takes into account the state's voting history, national trends, and recent polling in a particular state or geographic area.

This poll of 500 likely voters in Iowa has an accuracy of +/- 4.5% with a 95% level of confidence.

Key Survey Demographics:

Gender
Men - 47%
Women - 53%

Age
18-39 – 34%
40-64 – 44%
65+ - 23%

Race
White – 90%
Other – 10%

Party
Republican – 34%
Democrat – 31%
Other – 35%

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McLaughlin & Associates

To: All Interested Parties
From: John McLaughlin & Brittany Davin
Re: National Survey Executive Summary – Voters Overwhelmingly Support Term Limits for Congress
Date: January 15, 2018

Survey Summary:

The results of our recently completed national survey show that voters overwhelmingly believe in implementing term limits on members of Congress. Support for term limits is broad and strong across all political, geographic and demographic groups. An overwhelming 82% of voters approve of a Constitutional Amendment that will place term limits on members of Congress. Four-in-five voters believe that it is important for President Trump to keep his promise to support term limits for members of Congress by calling on Congress to vote for term limits, the majority of voters, 54%, believe it is very important for the President to keep his promise.

Do you approve or disapprove of a Constitutional Amendment that will place term limits on members of Congress?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Hispanic	A.A.*	White
Approve	**82%**	**89%**	**76%**	**83%**	**72%**	**70%**	**86%**
Strongly	56%	63%	45%	63%	45%	46%	61%
Somewhat	26%	26%	31%	20%	27%	24%	26%
Disapprove	**9%**	**6%**	**12%**	**8%**	**18%**	**15%**	**6%**
Somewhat	6%	3%	8%	6%	12%	8%	5%
Strongly	3%	2%	4%	2%	6%	6%	2%
Don't Know	**9%**	**6%**	**12%**	**9%**	**11%**	**16%**	**8%**

**A.A. represents African American voters surveyed*

During his campaign for President, Donald Trump promised that he would support term limits for members of Congress, how important is it for President Trump to keep his promise to support term limits for members of Congress by calling on Congress to vote for term limits.

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Hispanic	A.A.*	White
Important	**79%**	**91%**	**69%**	**79%**	**80%**	**60%**	**83%**
Very	54%	62%	45%	54%	51%	43%	57%
Somewhat	26%	29%	24%	25%	29%	17%	26%
Not Important At All	**12%**	**6%**	**19%**	**11%**	**13%**	**27%**	**9%**
Unsure	**9%**	**3%**	**12%**	**10%**	**7%**	**13%**	**8%**

If a bill were introduced in Congress to place term limits on members of Congress, would you want your senator and congressman to vote yes or no on this bill?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Hispanic	A.A.*	White
Yes	**77%**	**82%**	**69%**	**80%**	**68%**	**64%**	**81%**
No	**6%**	**6%**	**7%**	**5%**	**10%**	**10%**	**5%**
Undecided	**17%**	**12%**	**24%**	**15%**	**21%**	**26%**	**14%**

Nearly three-in-four voters, 73%, are more likely to vote for a candidate for U.S. Congress who supports implementing term limits on Congress, 42%, are much more likely.

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□ ould you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for □.□. Congress who <u>supports</u> implementing term limits for members of Congress?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Hispanic	A.A.*	White
More □i□ely	**73%**	**80%**	**64%**	**77%**	**71%**	**58%**	**78%**
Much More	42%	45%	33%	49%	39%	27%	46%
Somewhat More	31%	35%	31%	27%	32%	31%	31%
□ess □i□ely	**8%**	**5%**	**11%**	**8%**	**15%**	**16%**	**5%**
Somewhat Less	5%	3%	7%	4%	9%	7%	3%
Much Less	3%	2%	3%	4%	6%	9%	1%
No Di□□erence	**11%**	**9%**	**16%**	**6%**	**6%**	**13%**	**11%**
Don't Know	**8%**	**6%**	**10%**	**9%**	**9%**	**14%**	**7%**

□onclusions:

American voters overwhelmingly support placing term limits on members of Congress. The support for term limits is strong, broad and intense, to vote for members of Congress who will vote "yes" on term limits, and against those who will vote "no" against term limits for members of Congress.

Methodolo□y:

This survey of 1,000 likely general election voters nationwide was conducted on Jan. 5th to 11th, 2018. All interviews were conducted online□survey invitations were distributed randomly within predetermined geographic units. These units were structured to correlate with actual voter turnout in a nationwide general election. This poll of 1,000 likely general election voters has an accuracy of □□- 3.1% at a 95% confidence interval. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

□ey Demo□raphics:

□arty:

	Total
□epublican	33%
Democrat	36%
Independent□Other	31%

□ender:

	Total
Men	47%
□ omen	53%

Ideolo□y:

	Total
Liberal	24%
Moderate	40%
Conservative	37%

Race:

	Total
□ hite	71%
Asian□Asian American	4%
African American	12%
□ispanic	11%
Other	2%

A□e:

	Total
18-29	15%
30-40	17%
41-55	25%
56-65	23%
Over 65	20%
Mean	49

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