

Craig Geppert's Testimony in Support of SJR11

Dear Chairman Guth and Committee Members,

Good afternoon and I thank you for allowing me the time to testify today. I am a citizen of the great State of Iowa and am extremely proud to be a part of this great State. I am also a Risk Consultant in the Banking Industry and a proud employee of the institution I've worked for over 15 years. The leadership of the institution that I've worked for was relatively unchanged over most of my tenure. However, within the last two years, there has been a complete change at the upper echelon leadership level which has filtered down now throughout the company. The leadership is now almost completely in place and changes are starting to happen – real change. The impact of these changes will have lasting affects for years to come but the “we’ve always done it this way” attitude is definitely starting to fade and fade quickly. I am personally excited to see where these changes will take us and feel as though this leadership will truly benefit our customers and team members for years to come.

In Congress, the average length of service for a US House Representative is 9.4 years and the average for a US Senator is 10.1 years. We currently have Don Young R-AK serving in the House for 48 years and Patrick Leahy D-VT serving in the Senate for 47 years. Even most family-owned Ice Cream Shops and Restaurants have turn over within 40 years but for some reason we do not in Congress? The average age of people in Vermont is 47 years old and the average age of people in Alaska are 35 years old according to DataUSA. This means that these representatives have been in office for almost as long as half of their constituents have been alive on this earth. Some more perspective... Compact Music Discs were available to the general public in 1983 but no one could afford to play them because the Disc Players costs about 15% of the average person's salary at the time. However, advances were made and by 1988 the CD overtook vinyl as the choice for the average consumer. By 1991 the CD eclipsed the cassette tape and enjoyed a roughly 14 year run until 2005 when the Apple IPOD became the consumer favorite. Both Don Young and Patrick Leahy were elected when the 8-Track was at its height of popularity (1968-1975).

Term limits are necessary to keep the free flow of fresh ideas flowing into Congress and reducing the influence of lobbyists and dark money. Corporate PAC money makes up 97% of the funding for these incumbents because the lobbyists and special interest groups are trying to protect their “incumbent” investment. Ordinary people cannot run for Congress without a war chest of money to run, travel and advertise against an already known incumbent name. Allowing Term Limits to pass would provide ordinary people an opportunity to share their voice, be heard and based on the popularity of their message, get elected. It will take the power away of the Corporatists and Lobbyists and give those ordinary people and small businesses that do not have lobbyists a possible voice in Washington DC. We need people in Congress with real world experience and need to get rid of “Professional Politicians”.

Elections are not a form of term limits. Over 95% of incumbents have been reelected to federal office over the past 25 years. Incumbents have significant financial advantages over most challengers through large PACs and various government-focused reelection funds. This makes it nearly impossible to vote them out of office and then in turn giving them significant power in Washington DC. According to pollsters McLaughlin and Associates, an average of 82% of the American People want you to help them get their power back from Washington and vote for Term Limits. Even in our ever-polarized political

environment this is one area where both Democrats (79%) and Republicans (83%) overwhelmingly agree.

I am convinced that if our forefathers of the Constitution came back to see what has become of their dream after almost 250 years that they would be proud in some ways but greatly disappointed in others. The disappointment would most likely come within the area of career politicians and what they have done to our Republic. They would also be amazed with the amount of flat-out corruption amongst the elite political class today. These men fled from monarchy rule and rejected it completely so I doubt highly that they would be willing to create monarchies within Congress which is what I feel we have done.

Please vote for Term Limits for Congress. It is not only important for me and my family but also important for yours and all Iowa families and our futures. Let me ask you a question – the last time you listened to music – how did you listen to it? Was it digital? Was it an 8-Track? Compact Disc? Free markets help us make way for new and exciting innovations and I hope you consider this when voting for term limits within this committee. Thank you for your time today and please vote to pass SJR11!

Sincerely,

Craig Geppert

31819 Wilma's Circle

Dallas Center, IA 50063

Email: cgepp2@yahoo.com