

Testimony in Opposition of SCR 4008

North Dakota Senate State and Local Government Committee

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Scott Tillman and I am the Chief Operations Officer for U.S. Term Limits. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in opposition to SCR 4008, an attempt to circumvent voter approved term limits, term limits that will not affect anyone for years. Our real interest is to get a Term Limits Article V convention call in North Dakota.

Passing a resolution for term limits on congress is the driving reason behind U.S. Term Limits activities in North Dakota. We want a convention call. The reason we supported North Dakota state term limits is because the failure of the 2021 term limits article V resolution showed the disconnect between North Dakota legislators and their constituents. If we don't pass we'll continue our efforts in North Dakota. Once we pass our efforts will be in other states to pass congressional term limits resolutions.

It is unconstitutional by the very language SCR 4008 proposes to change, the legislature is prohibited from sending these types of changes back to voters. Section 4 of the 2022 term limits amendment acknowledges the conflict of interest legislators have in meddling with voter approved term limits, and made it a constitutional requirement that any change to legislative term limits need to come through a citizen initiative. I asked, Eric Winters an attorney specializing in elections and constitutional law to testify today about this.

The people of North Dakota overwhelmingly support term limits, And U.S. Term Limits will continue our efforts in North Dakota until an Article V Term Limits resolution is passed, as the people of North Dakota want. In 2022 North Dakota voters overwhelmingly approved of a state legislative term limits. This is not a partisan issue; it is a matter of representing the will of the people.

In closing, I urge this committee honor the choice of voters from only 2 years ago and oppose SCR 4008.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Scott Tillman