



Testimony from Ken Quinn with U.S. Term Limits in Support of HR206

Dear Chairman Everett, Vice-Chairman Boyle, and committee members,

My name is Ken Quinn and I am the Regional Director with US Term Limits. I am here today to testify in support of HR206 because this resolution would allow the states to propose a Term Limits Amendment for Congress which has been the desire of the American people for decades and in a recent poll received **overwhelming support from 82% of the American voters** (See attached McLaughlin & Associates)

We all know Congress is broken. It has become dysfunctional and unresponsive to the American people. Members of Congress no longer listen to the voice of the voters, instead they fulfill the desires of their funders. Money is what gets the attention of Congress and unfortunately, self-interests and maintaining power is the name of the game. We currently have over **10,000 years of combined "institutional knowledge"** in Congress and what is that getting us? We have **\$22 Trillion in debt, an immigration crisis, healthcare cost crisis, out of control spending, continuing resolutions to keep the government open**, etc. Enough is enough!

The approval ratings of Congress are consistently below 20%, yet the re-election rates for incumbents is over 95%! Obviously, there is a huge disconnect here. The current system protects incumbents in office and makes it virtually impossible to vote them out of office. Approximately 20% of congressional races don't even have a challenger. Members of Congress spend between **30-70% of their time in Washington dialing for dollars** to raise money for their reelection and their party. Key committee chairmanships are not awarded to the most qualified members, but to the ones that have raised the most money for their party.

(<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/60-minutes-are-members-of-congress-becoming-telemarketers/>)

We can only fix these problems with term limits. Term limits for Congress will **reduce corruption**, allow **new people to introduce new ideas**, allow **people with diverse backgrounds** to participate in our government, provide the **voters more choices**, **increase voter participation**, provide **fair and competitive elections**. People will go to Congress knowing they have a limited amount of time to do the work they were sent there to do instead of turning it into a lucrative lifetime career.

Robert Yates, a New York Delegate to the 1787 Federal Convention accurately described our present state of affairs due to a lack of term limits (rotation of office); "A rotation in the senate, would also in my opinion be of great use. It is now probable that senators once chosen for a state will, as the system now stands, **continue in office for life**. The office will be honorable **if not lucrative**. The persons who occupy it will probably wish to continue in it, and **therefore use all their influence and that of their friends to continue in office**. Their friends will be numerous and powerful, for they will have it in their power to confer great favors;.. Everybody acquainted with public affairs knows **how difficult it is to remove from office a person** who is has long been in it. It is seldom done except in cases of gross misconduct."

I encourage you on behalf of your constituents and the American people to please vote to pass HR206.

Sincerely,
Ken Quinn
Regional Director
U.S. Term Limits



THE ARTICLE V CONVENTION WAS DRAFTED BY THE FRAMERS TO ALLOW THE STATES TO PROPOSE A SINGLE AMENDMENT, NOT PROPOSE A NEW CONSTITUTION:

The attached documents will address the following items:

- **THE FRAMERS INTENDED AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION TO BE LIMITED.**
In these panels every substantive discussion and vote on the amending provision during Philadelphia Convention which became Article V, proves that the Framers intended an Article V convention to be a limited convention for the amendment applied for by two-thirds of the state legislatures.
- **AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION IS NOT A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (CON CON).**
This research explains the differences between a Constitutional Convention called to draft a new Constitution and an Article V convention called to propose an amendment.
- **MADISON REFUTES CHARGE THAT DELEGATES EXCEEDED THEIR AUTHORITY.**
In Federalist 40, James Madison refutes the charge that the delegates to the Philadelphia Convention exceeded their authority (runaway convention). This false narrative by the opponents today, fuels the “runaway” convention myth and is a campaign of fear to oppose the Constitution. Madison clearly explains that the delegates had full authority from their state legislatures to draft a new Constitution
- **AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION ALLOWS A SINGLE AMENDMENT TO BE PROPOSED.**
In Federalist 85, Alexander Hamilton explains that the Article V convention is limited to the amendment(s) the states were united in proposing. He opposed the effort to call for a second convention to revise the Constitution prior to ratification, and instead, favored an Article V convention.
- **MADISON OPPOSED A 2ND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION NOT AN ARTICLE V.**
In James Madison’s letter to George Turberville, he explains that he opposes New York’s desire for a second Constitutional Convention because it would require unanimous consent and knowing how hard the ratification fight was, he did not want to go through that again. In this letter he also describes the two types of conventions; Constitutional Convention (first principles) and Article V convention (forms).
- **THE DEBATE IN CONGRESS ON 1ST ARTICLE V APPLICATION PROVES IT IS LIMITED.**
Over fifty of the members in the 1st Congress were either delegates to the 1787 Federal Convention or delegates to their state ratification conventions. They had firsthand knowledge of the intent of Article V and it is abundantly clear that they understood that two-thirds of the state legislatures needed to apply for the same amendment(s) in order for Congress to call a convention.
- **THE UNIFORM LAW COMMISSION SIMILARITIES TO AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION.**
In this article (Runaway Convention? Meet the ULC: An Annual Conference of States Started in 1892 That Has Never Runaway) I demonstrate that the states currently participate in a Convention of States annually to propose uniform state laws. The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (ULC) is an official meeting of the states and functions virtually identically as an Article V convention. This proves that the states utilize convention rules today and that those rules work.
- **THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY DENIES ITS HISTORY AND BETRAYS ITS MISSION.**
The John Birch Society was a strong advocate for an Article V convention back in the 1960s and 70s to propose the Liberty Amendment and made it one of their main goals. To learn more, I recommend watching this video [youtube.com/watch?v=oiDrFO9gENc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiDrFO9gENc)