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Chairwoman Manchester and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Joint Resolution 6. As a member of the United States House of Representatives, I am a sponsor of a bipartisan amendment to establish term limits for members of Congress. When I previously served as a state senator here, I was also a cosponsor of the very resolution before you today. Everywhere I go, constituents tell me they support congressional term limits—79% of voters here favor them, across party lines.

While many of us are working to enact term limits at the federal level, as you know, proposing a constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds supermajority in both chambers of Congress. Unfortunately, too many members—facing an inherent conflict of interest—are unwilling to advance this reform.

State legislatures still reflect the Founders' vision of a citizen legislature far more closely than Congress does today. From my experience in Washington, I can tell you that Congress no longer resembles that ideal. The dysfunction on Capitol Hill is deep and persistent. The institution is increasingly compromised, and without meaningful reform—such as term limits—the gridlock and public frustration are likely to continue.

While I am doing what I can from within Congress to move this effort forward, I am here to ask for your help. Without external pressure, we are unlikely to secure the two-thirds vote necessary to propose a term limits amendment. However, if this body and other state legislatures act, that leverage will grow. The prospect of an Article V convention focused on term limits will encourage even the most reluctant members of Congress to act. Faced with the alternative of others driving the reform, they will be motivated to come to the table and advance the amendment themselves. As has happened with previous amendments in our nation's history, strong state action can spur congressional preemption—and I believe ratification could follow swiftly.

This resolution presents an opportunity for Republicans and Democrats alike to come together for the good of the country, for the good of voters, and to help restore trust in our institutions. I respectfully ask you to support those of us in Washington who are working to advance term limits by voting yes on SJR 6.

Thank you for your consideration.