

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1609

By Senators Claeys, Alley, Baumgardner, Blasi, Bowers, Erickson, Fagg, Gossage, Kerschen, Kloos, Masterson, Peck, Steffen, Straub, Thompson, Warren and Wilborn

2-23

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION making application to the Congress
2 of the United States to call a limited national convention for the
3 exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
4 the United States establishing term limits for members of Congress.
5

6 WHEREAS, The framers of the Constitution of the United States of
7 America intended that the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S.
8 Senate of the United States of America should be "dependent on the
9 people alone" (James Madison, Federalist 52); and

10 WHEREAS, Throughout American history, this dependency has
11 evolved from a dependency on the American people alone to a
12 dependency on powerful special interests, through spending by third-
13 party groups, campaigns or out-of-state donors, which have created a
14 fundamental imbalance in our representative democracy and eroded the
15 people's trust in government; and

16 WHEREAS, Americans across the political spectrum agree that
17 elections in the United States of America should be free from the
18 disproportional influence of special interests and fair enough that any
19 citizen can be elected into office; and

20 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the State of Kansas states that "all
21 political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are
22 founded on their authority, and are instituted for their equal protection
23 and benefit" (Bill of Rights, Section 2); and

24 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States
25 requires the Congress of the United States to call a convention for
26 proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States upon the
27 application of two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states; and

28 WHEREAS, The Kansas Legislature perceives the need for a
29 convention in order to ensure balance and integrity in our elections by
30 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that will
31 establish term limits for members of Congress to prevent the
32 accumulation of inordinate power in members with longevity who are
33 able to amass high amounts of funds for reelection; and

34 WHEREAS, A national convention would give the American people

1 an opportunity to come together as a nation, by discussing solutions on
2 how to ensure the integrity of our elections and renew the American
3 people's trust in government; and

4 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States clearly
5 states that any amendment, whether proposed by the Congress of the
6 United States or by a convention, must be ratified by 75% of the states,
7 presently 38 states, ensuring that only the most reasonable proposals with
8 widespread support shall become part of the Constitution of the United
9 States; and

10 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding any federal or Kansas law to the
11 contrary, the State of Kansas desires its delegates to such a national
12 convention to be composed equally of individuals currently elected to
13 state and local offices or to be selected by election in each congressional
14 district in Kansas, except that all individuals elected or appointed to
15 federal office, now or in the past, shall be prohibited from serving as
16 Kansas delegates. The State of Kansas intends to retain the ability to
17 enforce the responsibility and conduct of its delegation within the limits
18 herein expressed: Now, therefore,

19 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of*
20 *Representatives concurring therein:* That the people of the State of
21 Kansas, speaking through its legislature and pursuant to Article V of the
22 Constitution of the United States, hereby apply to the Congress of the
23 United States to call a convention of the states for the exclusive purpose
24 of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to set
25 a limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected as a member
26 of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; and

27 *Be it further resolved:* This application constitutes a continuing
28 application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United
29 States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have
30 made application on the same subject; and

31 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State shall send enrolled
32 copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice
33 President of the United States in the Vice President's capacity as presiding
34 officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
35 House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States
36 House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States
37 Senate, each Senator and Representative from Kansas in the Congress of
38 the United States, with the respectful request that the full and complete
39 text of this resolution be printed in the Congressional Record, the
40 presiding officers of each legislative body of each of the several states,
41 requesting the cooperation of the states in issuing an application
42 compelling the Congress of the United States to call a convention for
43 proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the

- 1 United States.