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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The first President of the United States, George Washington, stated in his Farewell Address: "The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government."; and

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WHEREAS, 25% of Congress has been in office for more than 16 years; by the end of 2016, 9 members will have been in office for more than 40 years; and

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WHEREAS, Term limits would reverse this trend by ensuring that open-seat races are held on a regular basis; the best and brightest minds in our states, who are currently blocked from serving in Congress by tenured politicians, would finally have the opportunity to move upward and make their case to the American people; and

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WHEREAS, Term limits also address the top-down power structure in Washington by allowing for less senior members to hold leadership roles; this means Congress will not only get an infusion of new talent but that all of its members will be empowered to make a difference; and

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WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the United States Congress to call a convention for

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1 proposing amendments upon application of two-thirds of the
2 legislatures of the several states for the purpose of proposing
3 amendments to the United States Constitution; and

4 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois sees the need for a
5 convention to propose amendments to set a limit on the number
6 of terms that a person may be elected as a Member of the United
7 States House of Representatives and to set a limit on the
8 number of terms that a person may be elected as a Member of the
9 United States Senate, or for a substantially similar purpose,
10 and desires that the convention should be so limited; and

11 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois desires that the delegates
12 to the convention shall be comprised equally from individuals
13 currently elected to State and local office, or be selected by
14 election in each Congressional district for the purpose of
15 serving as delegates, though all individuals elected or
16 appointed to federal office, now or in the past, be prohibited
17 from serving as delegates to the Convention, and intends to
18 retain the ability to restrict or expand the power of its
19 delegates within the limits expressed above; and

20 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois intends that this be a
21 continuing application, considered together with applications
22 from other States to Congress, to call a convention to set a
23 limit on the number of terms that a person may be elected to

1 the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United
2 States and the Senate of the United States; and this
3 application shall be aggregated with same for the purpose of
4 attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require
5 Congress to call a limited convention on this subject but shall
6 not be aggregated with any other applications on any other
7 subject; and

8 WHEREAS, This application constitutes a continuing
9 application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of
10 the United States of America until the legislatures of at least
11 two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the
12 same subject; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
15 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we, the legislature of the State of
16 Illinois, hereby make application to the Congress, under the
17 provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United
18 States, for the calling of a convention for proposing
19 amendments; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That this application shall be deemed an
21 application for a convention to address each and any of the
22 subjects listed in this resolution; for purposes of determining
23 whether two-thirds of the states have applied for a convention

1 addressing any subject, this application is to be aggregated
2 with the applications of any other state legislatures limited
3 to one or more of the subjects listed in this resolution; and
4 be it further

5 RESOLVED, That this resolution constitutes a continuing
6 application and remains in effect until rescission by any
7 sitting session of the legislature of this State; this
8 application does not constitute a recognition that any
9 particular activity or activities currently undertaken by the
10 federal government is or are authorized by the Constitution;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
13 delivered to the President and Secretary of the United States
14 Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives
15 of the United States Congress, and the Archivist of the United
16 States; to the members of the United States Senate and House of
17 Representatives from this State; and to the presiding officers
18 of each of the legislative chambers in the several States,
19 requesting their cooperation.