

By: Hunter

H.C.R. No. 97

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Our nation's founders well understood the
2 importance of maintaining a close connection between government and
3 the people it serves, and therefore favored the concept of term
4 limits, then known as "rotation in office"; and

5 WHEREAS, In the First Continental Congress, Thomas Jefferson
6 proposed limiting congressional tenure "to prevent every danger
7 which might arise to American freedom by continuing too long in
8 office the members of the Continental Congress," a principle
9 supported by Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, John Adams, and
10 others; accordingly, Article V of the Articles of Confederation
11 limited each delegate to no more than three years in office in any
12 six-year period, and George Washington enshrined this principle by
13 serving only two terms as president; with the concept of rotation in
14 office already becoming well-established among members of
15 Congress, mention of term limits was omitted in the United States
16 Constitution; and

17 WHEREAS, Most members of Congress served but one or two terms
18 until after the Civil War; by the time of the New Deal, only about a
19 quarter of incoming members of any Congress were freshmen, and in
20 the past decade, reelection rates in the house have hovered at
21 around 96 percent; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1951, the United States Constitution was amended
23 to limit presidents to two terms; many political scientists have
24 since observed that the institution of congressional term limits

1 could cure the resulting imbalance between these two branches of
2 federal government, and the American public has expressed wide
3 support for such limits; voters in almost two dozen states approved
4 term limits for their officials during the 1990s, and in a recent
5 poll by a prominent news organization, almost 8 in 10 registered
6 voters expressed support for a cap on tenure by their congressional
7 representatives; other polls have expressed similar
8 dissatisfaction with the status quo; and

9 WHEREAS, The institution of term limits will ensure
10 competitive elections and bring new ideas and fresh perspectives to
11 a Congress that is made up of citizen legislators rather than career
12 politicians; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
14 respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to propose and
15 submit to the states for ratification an amendment to the United
16 States Constitution to impose a limit of four two-year terms on
17 members of the House of Representatives; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
19 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
20 the president of the Senate and speaker of the House of
21 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
22 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
23 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
24 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.