Resolution Supporting Term Limits for U.S. Supreme Court Justices

WHEREAS, America's system of checks and balances was designed to prevent one branch of government from assuming too much power;

WHEREAS, The justices of the Supreme Court are appointed for life;

WHEREAS, Accountability is a core feature of democracy;

WHERAS, Life expectancy has dramatically increased since the founding of the United States, now allowing Supreme Court justices to serve for decades;

WHEREAS, A justice who stays on the Court for decades can shape how the law is interpreted for generations;

WHEREAS, Replacing lifetime appointments with a single 18-year term for justices of the Supreme Court would ensure that no one person holds too much power for too long;

WHEREAS, An 18-year term limit would promote regular turnover which would improve decision-making by including new voices and points of view to the Court;

WHEREAS, Regular turnover and shorter terms would lower the stakes and the political intensity of the confirmation process for the Supreme Court;

WHEREAS, No other major democracy gives lifetime seats to judges who sit on constitutional courts, and 49 out of 50 state supreme courts do not provide lifetime appointments for their justices;

WHEREAS, Public approval of the Supreme Court is hovering at historic lows and the public has consistently supported replacing life tenure of Supreme Court justices;

RESOLVED, This legislature supports the establishment of term limits of 18 years of active service for justices of the United States Supreme Court.