

October 16, 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

We are constitutional scholars and retired judges writing to express our support for the adoption of Supreme Court term limits.

It is our considered opinion that Congress has the constitutional authority to establish by statute a system of term limits for justices' active service on the Supreme Court (after which time members of the Court may continue to serve with limited duties). Congress likewise has the authority to provide for the regular appointment of a new justice to the Court every two years, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

While we are not writing to endorse any specific legislation, we believe that Supreme Court term limits are urgently needed at a time of plummeting confidence in the Supreme Court, and that it is within Congress's constitutional authority to establish a system of Supreme Court term limits through legislation.

Respectfully,

Bruce Ackerman
Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science, Yale University

Hon. Harry Lee Anstead (ret.)
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Hon. Mark W. Bennett (ret.)
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Iowa

Hon. Margot Botsford (ret.)
Associate Justice, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court

Kevin M. Clermont
Robert D. Ziff Professor of Law, Cornell Law School

Hon. Sue Bell Cobb (ret.)
Chief Justice, Alabama Supreme Court

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