

MEMBER'S DAY TALKING POINTS/STATEMENT

Chairman Kilmer and Ranking Member Timmons:

Thank you for providing Members the opportunity to share our priorities and ideas for the 117th Congress and the future of Congress. I'm very appreciative of this specific Member Day to share one of my priorities since I've been in Congress: Congressional term limits.

There are plenty of reforms that Congress should consider today including budget process reform, where I have a few bills in this space to hold members accountable, but today I want to focus on one issue in particular that's very close to my heart. As the chair of the term limits Caucus I'm proud to be here today to speak on the importance of term limits and the role this would play in modernizing and reforming Congress. I also can't continue without thanking my co-chair Ro Khanna and other dedicated colleagues, Brian Fitzpatrick and Mike Gallagher, who have pursued this effort with me.

"It is my strong belief that we cannot change the course of our country in any meaningful way without changing the culture of Washington. We need an environment that encourages politicians to do what is right- not for their party or special interests- but for their country."

George Mason, once said, "Nothing so strongly impels a man to regard the interest of his constituents as the certainty of returning to the general mass of the people from whence he was taken where he must participate in their burdens." What that means is that the intent of the founding fathers was to come up here and do the people's business and then go back home to the farm and "live under the rules we passed." Our constituents want us to come up here and represent the people, their interest, America's interest. Congressional Term Limits would be a new way to remind Congress members to listen to the constituents and remember their burdens while we are up here in Washington.

In fact, almost 90% of Americans support term limits in Congress, meanwhile Congress only has an approval rating of 36%, so why not listen to our constituents and take steps to *modernize* Congress by implementing term limits?

In the 116th and 117th Congress I've chaired the Term Limits Caucus with Representative Khanna where we have advocated for and raised awareness of the benefits of Congressional Term Limits. We continuously encourage members to

join the caucus, meet with experts on the topic and support a Constitutional amendment limiting Members of the House of Representatives and Senators to term limits.

The benefits of Congressional term limits are unending. Term limits will help elected officials consider the effects of the policies they enact. Recorded votes will mean much more — the electorate will expect true action from Congress and will not allow Members to keep their position by relying on talking points and avoiding tough political questions. Term limits can also inspire Members to be bold, pursue with fervor their ideas, and to always put their constituents before their own political ambitions and careers.

We didn't run just to re-arrange the furniture in the People's House. We ran to make a real difference to advance real reform so that this country and its leaders could govern and solve problems and move this nation forward. And so my greatest calling, I believe, isn't just to advance reforms to budget or to the tax code. I think this is a season for reforming this institution. The time is right for structural, fundamental, systemic reforms to the United States Congress and I am grateful for the opportunity to speak before you today.

I look forward to working with you this Congress on needed improvements and modifications to the U.S. Congress and appreciate your time today.