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U.S. Term Limits Condemns State Senator Hansen for Proposing Amendment to Weaken Term Limits

January 25th, 2010, Fairfax, VA—U.S. Term Limits President Philip Blumel today strongly condemned State Senator Tom Hansen for proposing to lengthen legislator term limits from 8 to 10 years.

The constitutional amendment, [SJR 2](#), would allow members of the State Senate and House to serve an additional two years, and increase the basic length of a term for House members from two to four years.

Blumel said that Hansen's proposal was an "insult to hard-working South Dakotans."

"In these hard economic times, lawmakers should be concerned about the job security of their constituents, not their own," Blumel explained, adding, "Instead, State Senator Hansen has once again chosen to defy the will of South Dakotans who in 2008 just voted to uphold term limits with 76 percent of the vote."

"The motive is always the same. Not so coincidentally, Senator Hansen is in his last term," Blumel noted. Senator Hansen began serving in the State Senate in 2004.

Blumel said South Dakotans were "growing weary of lawmakers' endless challenges to term limits. This will be the third year in a row that a proposal weakening term limits has been put forward."

The current law places four two-year terms on the State House and two four-year terms on the State Senate, and took effect in 2000.

[A 2009 poll conducted found that 68 percent of South Dakotans opposed a measure](#) weakening term limits in South Dakota that passed the Senate. (Crosstabs are [available here](#).) Also, in 2008, South Dakotans voted with 76 percent of the vote to keep term limits.

The constitutional amendment has been referred to the Senate State Affairs committee. Blumel called upon all State Senators to defeat the measure.

"The Senate knows that this and any other measure repealing or weakening term limits in South Dakota will fail, and instead of wasting taxpayer resources on another costly ballot measure, lawmakers should instead focus on improving the economy in South Dakota," Blumel concluded.

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