



PO. Box 29816
Lincoln NE, 68529
(402) 982-1572
wvnebraska.org

February 21, 2024

Senator Tom Brewer, Chair, and Members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

RE: LR282 (Lippincott) – Application to Congress for a convention of the states to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to set a limit on the number of terms members of the House and Senate may serve

OPPOSE – *Please include this testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LR282.*

Dear Senator Brewer and Members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska has consistently testified in opposition to resolutions that would apply to Congress to call for a convention of the states. The League is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V convention. The League has identified a number of criteria that should be met prior to calling a convention:

- The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret.
- Representation at the Constitutional Convention must be based on population rather than one-state, one-vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed.
- Voting at the Constitutional Convention must be by delegate.
- The Constitutional Convention must be limited to a specific topic.
- Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Constitutional Convention should be called.
- The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state.

As the criteria for calling an Article V Constitutional Convention are not in place, the LWWNE does not support advancement of LR282, which is consistent with our opposition to LR31CA on Feb. 2, 2023. As stated during previous testimony, after adoption of legislation on this topic, participation in a constitutional convention is current for the next four years due to previously enacted legislation.

Since 1991, the League has publicly opposed term limits for members of the U.S. Congress on the grounds that such limits would adversely affect the accountability, representativeness and effective performance of Congress and, by decreasing the power of Congress, upset the balance of power between Congress and an already powerful presidency. Term limits should be determined by the voter.

LR282 should not advance from the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Sincerely,

Sheri St Clair, Government Co-Director, LWWNE
Rachel Gibson, Vice President-Action, LWWNE
MaryLee Moulton and Janelle Stevenson, Co-Presidents, LWWNE