



February 27, 2010
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Bipartisan Reform Initiative

The snow is pretty deep here in Springfield, and so are the bills that keep piling up on behalf of the State of Illinois and the people. Understandably, people are becoming increasingly disenchanted with their government. We witnessed this earlier this month in the primary elections with the abysmal turnout for both Democrats and Republicans at the polls. If this trend were to continue, it would be incredibly dangerous to our democracy.

They say that Democrats and Republicans can't get along in Springfield. I say we can. Let me tell you about a bill that I am co-sponsoring ***with*** my Republican colleagues in the Senate.

Joint Resolution 25 proposes to amend the Illinois Constitution by putting term limits on the offices of Speaker of the House, the Senate President and Minority Leaders in both the House and Senate.

In its current form, the bill would cap service for leaders to 10 years in any office, and 14 years combined should someone serve as both Speaker of the House and President of the Senate.

My Republican colleagues and I feel that this amendment will help prevent any one person, irrespective of party, from becoming too powerful, and make sure that the special interests do not dominate Springfield. As legislators, we have a duty to make sure that government is working for the people, and not the other way around.

I'm proud to have sponsored legislation that provides citizens with the ability to recall their Governor. As well as, I am proud to have sponsored campaign finance reform here in the State of Illinois. I also sponsored the bill that rolled back the veto power of the Cook County President. And, I'm hoping that we will be able to add term limits for legislative leaders to that list of accomplishments.

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