

1 HR49
2 209654-2
3 By Representatives Estes, Lipscomb, Robertson, Holmes, Shaver,
4 Whitt, Easterbrook, Isbell, Kiel, Wood (D), Brown (C),
5 Marques, Sorrells, Stringer, Simpson, Meadows, Faulkner,
6 Mooney, Gaston, McCutcheon and Hanes
7 RFD: Rules
8 First Read: 11-FEB-21

URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE KEEP NINE AMENDMENT.

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution provides no specific instruction for the number of justices that constitutes the Supreme Court of the United States; and

WHEREAS, for over 150 years the Supreme Court has consisted of nine justices; and

WHEREAS, during the nation's history, Congress has changed the number of justices, both increasing and decreasing, seven times prior to 1869, for the purpose of gaining political advantage for a then-current political position; and

WHEREAS, the practice of "packing the court" for political advantage greatly decreases public confidence that the Supreme Court exists as an essential element of America's system of checks and balances which guarantees and protects a citizen's constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, in order to prevent all attempts by the legislative or executive branches of government to change the number of Supreme Court justices, the "Keep Nine Amendment" to

1 the United States Constitution has been proposed in Congress
2 which simply states "the Supreme Court of the United States
3 shall be composed of nine justices"; and

4 WHEREAS, the "Keep Nine Amendment" was introduced as
5 House Joint Resolution 95 in the House of Representatives on
6 September 24, 2020, with bipartisan sponsorship by then
7 Representatives Collin Peterson (D-MN) and Denver Riggleman
8 (R-VA), with cosponsors Mo Brooks (R-AL5), Michael San Nicolas
9 (D-GU-At-large), Doug LaMalfa (R-CA1), and Ken Buck (R-CO4);
10 and

11 WHEREAS, a number of former state attorneys general
12 oppose "packing the court", and recent polls have shown that
13 voters support a "Keep Nine Amendment" by more than a three to
14 one margin; and

15 WHEREAS, President Biden is currently forming a
16 study commission on Supreme Court reform that has "court
17 expansionists" as its leaders; now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
19 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That this body strongly urges the
20 Alabama Congressional Delegation to support the pending "Keep
21 Nine Amendment" as filed in the United States Senate and House
22 of Representatives.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
24 resolution be provided to the Alabama Congressional Delegation
25 and the Attorney General for the State of Alabama.