

**House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs**

**04/07/2025 01:30 PM**

**HCR25-1002 Limit Election of Legislators Who Fill Vacancies**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Kerry Blount For themselves	I fully support HRC 25-1002, and I urge the committee to advance this bill because I think Colorado voters should select state lawmakers rather than a vacancy committee. Twenty-one current members of the Colorado General Assembly were first appointed to the House or Senate through a vacancy committee. HRC 25-1002 will ensure that Colorado voters have the opportunity to select our lawmakers.
Donna Sam For themselves	I don't like how elected officials decide to retire thus allowing a replacement be appointed rather go through the process of running in an election voted by the people. They currently end up running as an incumbent which a lot of people just automatically vote in. I think the appointed replacement should not be allowed to run immediately after completing the the length of term but have to wait at least another term to run.
Wendy Petry For themselves	<p>I wholeheartedly support this resolution. I am very concerned about the growing trend in our legislature involving what appear to be planned retirements, thus allowing vacancy committees to appoint replacements. The current system affords the appointed representative the very real advantage of the incumbency. I understand that considerable time and research went into developing the proposed approach and am confident that it will reduce the occurrence of seemingly planned retirements.</p> <p>Please move this resolution forward so the voters in Colorado can ultimately decide on this issue.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
Lance Kendrick For themselves	I urge you to vote in favor of HRC-25-1002 to protect the rights of voters to decide elected officials. Thank you.
Tony Hillerson For themselves	I fully support this bill.

<p>Chris Rabotin For themselves</p>	<p>Chair and Committee Members,</p> <p>Colorado’s current vacancy committee system—where a small group of party insiders handpicks legislators—resembles the very monarchical court practices our nation’s founders rebelled against. We are proud descendants of those who rejected inherited power and backroom appointments, yet today, 21 sitting lawmakers gained office not through the consent of the governed, but through a process dominated by political elites.</p> <p>When legislators resign shortly after re-election, only to be replaced by appointees who then enjoy incumbency advantages, it undermines fair representation. This system privileges political connections over public accountability, creating a modern aristocracy insulated from voters.</p> <p>HCR 25-1002 addresses this injustice by ensuring vacancy appointees serve as temporary stewards, not entrenched incumbents. Meanwhile, HB 25-1315—while well-intentioned—fails to solve the root problem: unearned electoral advantages.</p> <p>The Colorado Forward Party rightly notes that this reform would curb planned retirements and restore trust. Let us honor our revolutionary heritage by rejecting monarchy-in-practice and reaffirming that power belongs to the people, not party committees.</p> <p>I urge you to advance HCR 25-1002.</p>
<p>Harlan Sam For themselves</p>	<p>I stand in favor of this resolution to limit the ability of an appointed representative to run for office in the election immediately following their term of appointment. Due to the very common reason that many incumbents are re-elected solely on the fact that they are incumbents gives the prevailing political party an outsized voice in our governmental system. The ability run after being appointed gives an unfair advantage to that official and undermines our political system which boasts a system of "checks and balances".</p> <p>Allowing an appointed official to run in the election immediately following their appointment goes against that mechanism of balance we love so much to tell our electorate we have.</p> <p>Additionally, allowing an appointed official to run in the election immediately following their appointment is simply an invitation to cronyism. If we really want to eliminate this type of political game playing, we should enforce this ban. If the appointed official were really that good, then I would ask why they did not run in the</p>

	<p>first place or why they can't run in the next election following the one they were appointed? If they were as good as being elected, there should be no fear in running in a different election.</p> <p>The very fact that the parties in power would be against this proposal, is the very proof that you need to pass this resolution. After all, when was the last time any of our political parties voted in favor of any legislation that reduced their power or ability to get re-elected?</p>
<p>Lester Dillon For themselves</p>	<p>I very much support HCR25-1002 - Limit Election of Legislators Who Fill Vacancies. ALL state officials should be selected by voters, not other members of the legislature.</p>
<p>Andrew Arell For themselves</p>	<p>I support this resolution that will prohibit a person from serving as a state representative, or senator, for a term of office that immediately follows a term for which the person was appointed to fill a vacancy in the General Assembly for that office.</p>
<p>Margaret Collins For themselves</p>	<p>I fully support placing this amendment on the November ballot. I am deeply concerned that a process that was intended to be used only occasionally in extreme circumstances of deaths and illnesses has become a matter of the regular course of business by both parties. While I recognize the need to fill those types of vacancies quickly and without the expense of a full election, I am now seeing elected officials use this opportunity in ways it was never intended. Let the voters determine what they consider to be a fair and democratic approach to this challenge.</p>