

Lower Cloture.pdf

Evidence Card: Arguments Against Lowering Cloture to Simple Majority

Team Policy Evidence Sheet

Tag Line

The filibuster was not an accident of history - it provides crucial protection requiring broader support for significant legislation

Verbal Citation

"The filibuster was not an accident of history. It provides the crucial protection of requiring significant legislation to earn broader support." - Thomas Jipping, Heritage Foundation, "The Founders Did Not Intend a Simple-Majority Senate", May 14, 2019"Extended debate is part of checks and balances... a very important part of limiting government." - Thomas Jipping, Heritage Foundation, "The Founders Did Not Intend a Simple-Majority Senate", May 14, 2019

What the evidence says in context

Heritage Foundation legal scholar Thomas Jipping explains that the filibuster has deep historical and constitutional foundations. He argues that the filibuster was intentionally designed as part of the Senate's structure to ensure that significant legislation must earn broad support rather than passing with simple majority votes. Jipping traces the filibuster's origins to the Founders' intent for the Senate to serve as a stabilizing, deliberative body that would check the passions of the House. Extended debate, he contends, is an essential component of the constitutional system of checks and balances that limits government power and ensures more careful consideration of major policy changes.

Impact

Lowering the cloture threshold to a simple majority would eliminate a fundamental constitutional protection that has ensured stable governance for over two centuries. The filibuster forces bipartisan cooperation and prevents drastic policy swings based on temporary political passions. Without this protection, significant legislation could pass with minimal support, potentially undermining rights and institutions that depend on broad

consensus. The filibuster serves as a crucial check on government power, ensuring that major changes to law and policy must earn substantial support from across the political spectrum, protecting both minority rights and governmental stability.

Webpage or Book Title

The Heritage Foundation

URL or page number

<https://www.heritage.org/political-process/commentary/the-founders-did-not-intend-simple-majority-senate>

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"The Founders Did Not Intend a Simple-Majority Senate"

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Thomas Jipping

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