

Indiana Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary

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Alito's Confirmation Must be Stopped!

Says Indiana Organizations

Nominee's extreme views could lead to unchecked executive power, tip the scales of justice in favor of powerful special interests, and threaten fundamental civil rights and liberties

INDIANAPOLIS (January 5, 2006) – Organizations representing thousands of Hoosiers called on Senators Richard Lugar and Evan Bayh today to reject the confirmation of Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court.

The organizations, listed below, issued the following statement:

“Judge Alito holds extreme right-wing views that are not consistent with mainstream legal thought. He has embraced a view of executive power that could give President Bush almost unchecked authority to violate private citizens' rights, he has a record of siding with powerful interests at ordinary Americans' expense, and he would likely vote to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and undermine the right to privacy and other important civil rights protections.

“Judge Alito's record provides many reasons to oppose his confirmation. He attempted to undermine regulations protecting clean air and water, he sought to strike down a law limiting the possession and transfer of machine guns, and, in one case, he turned a blind eye to racial discrimination in jury selection.

“The Supreme Court is not a political football. Its independence is an essential part of the system of checks and balances that has worked for our country for more than 200 years. The Supreme Court must not fall hostage to ideological extremists who would use it to advance a partisan political agenda. But such a takeover is exactly what Judge Alito's confirmation could entail. Ideological extremists forced Harriet Miers to withdraw her nomination, ideological extremists floated Samuel Alito as an acceptable nominee, and ideological extremists rejoiced at his selection. They sense that a Supreme Court takeover, in their view the ultimate political victory, is close at hand.

“Judge Alito has been nominated to replace the mainstream conservative Sandra Day O’Connor, one of the most respected Supreme Court justices of all time. Justice O’Connor was often the swing vote in favor of advancing the cause of justice and upholding our nation’s democratic ideals. The contrast between her and Judge Alito could not be more stark.

“Many highly qualified individuals, including conservatives, would have been acceptable nominees. Judge Alito is not. We will do everything we can to stop his confirmation, and we urge Senators Lugar and Bayh to do the same. Our nation’s future is at stake.”

The following are the organizations in Indiana issuing this statement:

Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Indiana National Organization for Women

Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People - Indiana

National Council of Jewish Women – Indianapolis Section

People for the American Way – Indiana

Planned Parenthood of Indiana

Tri-State Alliance of Evansville