



NEWS

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South Carolina House Passes Resolution Calling on Congress to Support a Floor Vote for the President's Judicial Nominees

Rep. W. Smith calls for action on President Bush's nominees.

WASHINGTON- A resolution calling on Congress to vote on the President's Judicial Nominees passed in the South Carolina State House. Today, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation's leading taxpayer advocacy group, praised South Carolina Representative W. Douglas Smith (R-32) for his willingness to work for justice. Through introducing a resolution urging Congress to work to allow a timely vote on the floor of the United States Senate on all judicial nominations, Rep. W. Smith is using the power of South Carolina's influence to shape congressional debate.

ATR's State Legislative Advisory Project, launched in 2001, is an effort to help give state legislators a louder voice in federal policymaking. In the project's first year, twenty-seven states stepped up to pass resolutions urging their congressional delegations to support the Economic Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act. As of May, 2004, state legislators have already introduced 160 different resolutions in 40 legislative bodies in 27 states.

Taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, president of ATR, praised Rep. W. Smith's efforts. **"Americans for Tax Reform applauds Rep. W. Smith for strengthening the voices of state legislators working to bring critical issues to the forefront of congressional debate."**

Rep. W. Smith's resolution encourages the congressional delegates to vote on six of President Bush's nominees that were reported favorably by the Committee on the Judiciary. As 63 percent of President Bush's Court of Appeal nominations and 42 percent of his District Court nominations have been to fill seats classified as "judicial emergencies" by the United States Courts, South Carolina is calling for action.

"The United States Senate is being held hostage by the agenda of an extreme minority," said Norquist, **"It is time for the minority of United States Senators using dilatory tactics to prevent a vote to grow up and work on solving problems, not obstructing a constitutional process."**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or at jcollegio@atr.org.