



**KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**  
**UNITED STATES SENATOR**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510-4304**

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Fellow Texans,

I take seriously my responsibility to advise and consent on individuals nominated for lifetime appointments to the bench. Federal judges do not answer to the people after they take office, and when we Senators make a mistake, the results can be devastating. The U.S. appellate court ruling removing "Under God" from our Pledge of Allegiance is just one recent example.

Since President Bush took office in 2001, I have voted to confirm 197 of his 198 nominations that have reached the Senate floor. I am gratified that he has seated a number of judges with a conservative background, because none were appointed during the eight Clinton years. I am particularly pleased when a nominee has strong religious underpinnings, and I believe the Administration of justice benefits greatly as a result.

A previous message implied that my vote against confirmation of Leon Holmes was based either on his abortion position or his religious views. This is not correct. When his statements and writings about equality of women came to light during Senate deliberations, I undertook a serious, independent inquiry, hoping that he could convince me that he was committed to equality for women. After considering his writings, his statements, and interviewing a number of people who knew him, I met with Dr. Holmes and had a frank discussion with him. I ultimately concluded that he was not so committed, and I could not support him for a lifetime appointment.

I'm proud of my strongly conservative, pro-family voting record in the Senate. Of 37 votes rated by the National Right to Life Committee, for example, I have only one vote scored "wrong" by that organization. I have consistently been a leader in bolstering traditional values. I have steadfastly opposed gambling and its expansion in Texas. Last year, I was among the first Senators to publicly endorse a constitutional amendment making marriage solely between a man and a woman. Next week, I will again take a leadership role when the Senate attempts to enact a Federal Marriage Amendment. This amendment, when ultimately passed, will protect states such as Texas from federal court challenges to our definition of marriage, and will prevent activist judges from redefining the traditional institution of marriage according to their own views. I'm convinced there is little we do in the U.S. Congress more important than preserving and strengthening our core social unit, the traditional family.

I appreciate the outpouring of messages and prayers I have received recently as we considered these issues so vital to our society. And I'm grateful that the Christian Coalition gave me this opportunity to communicate with you.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison