



News From

U.S. Congressman Jim DeMint
Serving South Carolina's Fourth District

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Contact: John Hart
202-225-6030
John.Hart@mail.house.gov

DeMint Urges Senate Democrats to End Judicial Hostage Crisis

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – U.S. Representative Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) today congratulated his colleagues in the Senate, including U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Jeff Sessions (R-AL), Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and Norm Coleman (R-MN), for highlighting an unprecedented “judicial hostage crisis” in the Senate – the unconstitutional blocking of judicial nominees by Senate Democrats. A 30-hour, round the clock ‘Justice for Judges’ debate will begin late Wednesday and conclude Friday morning.

“Liberal Democrats in the Senate who espouse diversity in the judiciary as long as judges express an opinion with which they agree, have mounted an unprecedented blocking of President Bush’s judicial nominees. This is a judicial hostage crisis. Senators such Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) are on record expressing their belief that all judges deserve a straight up-or-down vote in the Senate. Yet, they have suddenly added an exception to their rule – they support an honest vote unless judges are nominated by a president who does not conform to their narrow ideological agenda. The American people need to be aware of this outrageous tactic, and I’m pleased my friends in Senate are staying up all night to explain this,” DeMint said.

“The underlying story here is that liberal activists in America have relied on the courts to enact policies they could not move through Congress or state legislatures. Those activists and their patrons in the Senate simply cannot tolerate a judge who might look at judicial precedent that existed before 1960. It’s time for the Senate to end its partisan gridlock and give President Bush’s nominees an honest up-or-down vote,” DeMint said.

One of President Bush’s most qualified nominees, Miguel Estrada, nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, has already withdrawn his nomination from consideration after Republicans tried and failed on seven different occasions to garner 60 votes. Estrada’s nomination was blocked for 848 days.

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