



House Republican Conference Secretary

**JOHN T.
DOOLITTLE**

California's Fourth Congressional District

NEWS

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Doolittle: Supreme Court's Ruling Amends First Amendment *Campaign Finance Regulation Upheld*

Washington, D.C. – House Republican Conference Secretary John T. Doolittle (R-Roseville) today said the Supreme Court has taken a dramatic step away from protecting our free speech by ruling to uphold the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA).

“Today the Court has failed to protect the First Amendment rights of the American people,” Doolittle said. “The Constitution clearly states that ‘*Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech,*’ and yet BCRA clearly restricts Americans from freely participating in the political process. It’s truly sad to see the Supreme Court, which for decades has stood for the protection of free speech, take a dramatic step in the other direction. Today’s ruling is nothing less than an amendment to the First Amendment.

“The Court ruled in favor of campaign finance *regulation*, not reform,” Doolittle said. “It sanctioned the ban on soft money contributions which has the alarming effect of preventing American citizens from running for office. Regulatory hoops and ridiculously low contribution limits serve as a serious detriment to challengers who have to overcome the advantages of incumbency.

“This is a serious encroachment of our First Amendment rights and cannot be tolerated,” Doolittle continued. “It’s now up to Congress to provide alternatives that will preserve an open, competitive political process and respect the right to free speech under the Constitution.”

Doolittle has sponsored legislation in the last three Congresses that would have lifted all dollar limits during campaigns while requiring strict, 24-hour disclosure on the internet of all campaign contributions. The Doolittle alternative would also eliminate taxpayer financing of campaigns.

Doolittle attended the BCRA oral arguments at the Supreme Court back in September.

Congressman John T. Doolittle has served in the House of Representatives since 1991. As Conference Secretary, he is an elected member of the House Republican Leadership. Doolittle represents California's 4th Congressional District and serves on the Appropriations Committee, Energy and Water and DC Appropriations Subcommittees, and the House Administration Committee.

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