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## **Supreme Court Ruling Reiterates Importance of the *Reaffirmation of American Independence Resolution***

(Washington, D.C.) - Yesterday's Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Roper v. Simmons* underscores the need for the removal of international influence in the United States court system. The court's citation of international rulings in the decision to abolish the death penalty for juveniles prompted Chairman Steve Chabot (R-OH), Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) and U.S. Rep. Tom Feeney (R-FL) to reiterate the importance of the *Reaffirmation of American Independence Resolution*, H. Res. 97. The Resolution states that judicial decisions should not be based on any foreign laws, court decisions, or pronouncements of foreign governments.

**"This is a clear cut example of policy-making from the bench. The majority in this case make little attempt to hide that personal judgments and international opinion form the basis of this badly reasoned decision. Clearly, the death penalty and its applicability to violent minors is an issue that should be decided by the people through their elected representatives,"** concluded Chairman Chabot.

Chairman Goodlatte stated, **"Yesterday's opinion flies in the face of the rule of law in our country. It is a dangerous precedent, indeed, to blatantly cite foreign laws when interpreting the original meaning of the United States Constitution. The opinions of foreign governments have no place in interpreting the original meaning of the Constitution, and it is high time that these justices be reminded that their duty is to interpret the Constitution, not to impose the will of foreign entities on the people of the United States."**

**"The Supreme Court has insulted the Constitution by overturning its own precedent to appease contemporary foreign laws, social trends, and attitudes. This action denotes the high court's preoccupation with accommodating the rules of the international community while demonstrating blatant disregard for those outlined by the Constitution,"** stated Rep. Feeney. **"The integrity of our legal process is jeopardized when laws are created by five unelected, life-tenured Justices, with no accountability to the will of the people,"** concluded Feeney.

H. Res. 97, which was introduced for the second consecutive year in the 109th Congress, currently has 39 original co-sponsors and has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

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