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## **Senator Reid Betrays Promise**

Hi, this is Mario Diaz, Policy Director for Legal Issues at Concerned Women for America.

The obstruction of President Bush's judicial nominees continues in the U.S. Senate. Even Nevada's own Harry Reid recognized back in April that the Democratic leadership needed "to make more progress on" circuit court nominations. And so he promised to confirm three circuit court nominees by the Memorial Day recess. But just like Memorial Day, Senator Reid's fluffy promises have come and gone. Only one nominee was confirmed before the Senate recess.

Americans are looking for a leader to transcend politics, stand up and do the right thing. Sen. Reid presented himself as worthy and able to be a leader in the U.S. Senate. Yet partisan politics and broken promises are not the traits of a noble leader.

Many of the nominations being blocked in the Senate are for seats that have been declared judicial emergencies. That means that there are not enough judges on certain circuits to handle the case load. This has a tangible and profound impact on the American people. But Sen. Reid has made perfectly clear that when it comes to judicial nominations, political games are more important than the needs of the people.

The Senate has confirmed two judicial nominees this year. *Two!* That's an embarrassing record by any standard and it shows us why this Congress has such an abysmal approval rating.

The people say we want well-qualified nominees confirmed, but the Senate keeps playing politics with nominees' lives, following the commands of special interest groups, making deals, and ignoring the needs of the people.

And we are not talking about new nominees here; some nominees go as far back as two years. Peter Keisler, for example, was nominated back in June of *2006*. Keisler is a well qualified nominee with an impeccable record.

Qualifications, character and merit should be the only issues when looking at judicial nominees. But it appears that Sen. Reid has received his marching orders from extreme liberal special interest groups who are dictating that these nominees need to be opposed because they will not be judicial activists for their preferred causes. Sen. Reid knows that these are well-qualified nominees and that if given a vote they would be confirmed, leading us to conclude that he has broken his promise and played political games precisely to prevent qualified men and women from serving on federal courts.

Right now, the Senate, led by Sen. Reid, has Zero credibility when it comes to judicial nominations. Americans have heard all the rhetoric and empty promises and are tired of the political maneuvering. The people want action, and sadly Sen. Reid is not willing to make it happen.

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