

November 8, 2004

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Frist:

On behalf of the millions of families represented by our organizations we ask you to ensure that the chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the 109th Congress does not go to Senator Arlen Specter. The Chairman of this committee is one of the most important positions in Congress and it is critical that the person who holds this position does not have an ideological litmus test against the fundamental values of President Bush.

On Wednesday Senator Specter made comments reaffirming his commitment to defend *Roe v. Wade*. Among his statements, he said that *Roe v. Wade* is “inviolable” and that “nobody can be confirmed today who does not agree with it.” Senator Specter has in essence created a litmus test against pro-life nominees to the Supreme Court. In his attempt to clarify his statements, the Senator did not offer any commitment to support President Bush’s nominees. Also, in his initial statement he offered a number of other comments that were critical of some of the President’s current nominees stalled in the Senate as well as unflattering comments about sitting Supreme Court Justices.

These remarks are part of a long history of antagonism toward conservatively-minded judicial appointees. He led the opposition to President Reagan’s nomination of Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court and helped defeat his Senate colleague Jeff Sessions for a federal judgeship.

His recent comments, coming off a re-election bid that required the intervention of President Bush and Senator Santorum in the Pennsylvania primary, reflect a surprising arrogance and ingratitude toward the President. These remarks are especially troubling considering the outcome of the election and the mandate the President now has regarding cultural issues – issues that are often determined by judicial appointments. Clearly, Senator Specter has not shown proper judgment for the chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee. We ask you to provide the Senate with an acceptable alternative.

Sincerely,

AdvanceUSA
Abstinence Clearinghouse
American Assoc. of Christian Schools
American Family Association
Americans United for Life
Catholic Vote
Center for Moral Clarity
Coalitions for America
Concerned Women for America
Cornerstone Policy Research

Culture of Life Foundation
Family Research Council
Focus on the Family
Free Market Foundation
Eagle Forum
Liberty Counsel
Population Research Institute
Religious Freedom Coalition
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

cc: Senator Rick Santorum
Tim Goeglein