

Statement of Citizens for Educational Freedom
in Support of the Nomination of
Judge Antonin Scalia
to be
Associate Justice
of the United States Supreme Court

Citizens for Educational Freedom applauds and strongly supports the nomination of Judge Antonin Scalia to be Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. We urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to expeditiously and favorably recommend Judge Scalia's confirmation by the United States Senate.

Citizens for Educational Freedom is a non-sectarian, non-partisan association committed to equal justice in education for every child. We believe that excellence in education is borne of diversity and competition. Founded in 1959, CEF is the national association of parents, administrators and teachers in all fifty states who support pluralism in education. We believe that parents, not the state, have primary rights in the education of children. In this regard, parents should have the right to choose religious or other private education without financial penalty or government interference. CEF works to secure tuition tax credits/ deductions, seeks to repeal discriminatory state Blaine-type Amendments (laws in 36 states which prohibit tax monies from benefitting children in religious schools) and supports voucher proposals which would allow parents to target their education tax dollars to the schools of their choice.

CEF believes that Judge Scalia would bring to the Court a level of integrity, intellect, wisdom and experience which will enable him to be a truly great Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Scalia recognizes that religious and private schools make major contributions to the public good; contributions which are secular and of benefit to all of society. In a pluralistic society based on "liberty and justice for all" it is wrong to penalize those taxpayers who seek alternatives to government controlled schools. We gratefully remember that Judge Scalia was an early champion of the right of private and religious school parents to receive tax credits for the tuition they pay. Further, Judge Scalia has wisely recognized that the neutrality doctrine is incompatible with the free exercise clause in the first amendment. Indeed, the very existence of a free exercise clause indicates that the Constitution gives special favors to religion.

In summary, Citizens for Educational Freedom believes that the nation will be most fortunate to have Judge Antonin Scalia on the United States Supreme Court. We urge the Committee to recommend his speedy confirmation.