



SPENCER BACHUS

U.S. Representative – Alabama's 6th District
www.house.gov/bachus

News for Immediate Release:
Monday, June 27, 2005

Contact: Jason Goggins (202) 226-4531
cell: (202) 225-2353

BACHUS STRONGLY DISAGREES WITH SUPREME COURT RULING BARRING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

WASHINGTON - Congressman Spencer Bachus today issued the following statement regarding the Supreme Court decision to prohibit the display of the Ten Commandments in courthouses:

“The Supreme Court decision to bar the display of the Ten Commandments from our state courtrooms is another example of the federal judiciary overstepping its bounds. Our forefathers clearly based our legal system on Biblical moral law, and to prohibit the displaying of that law contradicts their intent. The First Amendment is not intended to exclude from public places all expression of moral values. To the contrary, the First Amendment says, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” Congressman Bachus said.

“Displaying the Ten Commandments does not establish a state religion nor does it prohibit the free exercise of anyone’s religious preference. The display of the Commandments does, however, show respect for a set of moral values which as a guide to acceptable conduct have never been surpassed. There is an unbroken line from the Founders to the present day of the representatives of the people of the United States expressing their respect for religion in the life of our Nation. References to religion and the Ten Commandments are on display all over the U.S. Capitol in which virtually every room has been used for religious services from its very beginning. The usurpation of this collective wisdom by five members of the Supreme Court continues and is simply disgraceful and baseless.”

“It is wrong for the Court to legislate in the guise of interpreting the Constitution. For this reason, I am an original co-sponsor of such legislation as the “Constitution Restoration Act,” which seeks to limit the jurisdiction of the federal courts in such matters. In addition, I will strongly advocate for the appointment of judges at all levels who will correctly interpret the Constitution,” Bachus continued.

###