

Statement of Endorsement for

The Honorable William H. Rehnquist
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

for

Chief Justice of the United States

Submitted by:

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Concerned Women for America, (CWA), the nation's largest non-partisan women's activist organization, strongly supports President Reagan's nomination of U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice William H. Rehnquist for Chief Justice of the United States. CWA was founded in 1979 to protect the rights of the family and America's traditional moral values as set forth by the Framers of the Constitution. With over 550,000 members in all fifty states, CWA's membership exceeds the combined total memberships of the National Organization for Women, the Women's Political Caucus, and the League of Women Voters.

Although Justice Rehnquist's great intelligence and extensive legal experience adequately qualify him for the position of Chief Justice, it is his dedication to judicial restraint which we hold in highest esteem. Justice Rehnquist's record demonstrates his belief that the Supreme Court should interpret the Constitution in light of the intent of the Framers, and not manufacture new rights absent any textual justification.

For example, Justice Rehnquist has refused to read a "right to abortion" or a "right to sodomy" in the Constitution. (See Roe v. Wade and Bowers v. Hardwick). In those two cases, Justice Rehnquist relied on the overwhelming historical evidence that the Framers intended to leave these areas to state legislatures to decide.

Justice Rehnquist is strongly committed to support of religious

liberties and a historically-accurate understanding of the Establishment Clause. (See, for example, Justice Rehnquist's position in Bender v. Williamsport School District and his dissent in Wallace v. Jaffree).

This balanced, thoughtful approach to constitutional interpretation makes Justice Rehnquist an unusually well-qualified selection for Chief Justice. His commitment to the historical understanding of the intent of the Framers maintains the balances struck by the Founding Fathers through the Constitution's concepts of federalism and separation of powers. The people, through their elected officials, then can properly initiate constitutional changes through the amendment process. Justice Rehnquist's jurisprudence resists the concept of "evolving law," that has the Supreme Court change the Constitution, as it sits as a perpetual, unelected Constitutional Convention.

Based on his intellectual abilities, experience, and deep understanding of the Constitution, Concerned Women for America urges the Senate to confirm William Rehnquist as the next Chief Justice of the United States.

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