

Mr. Chairman, I am one of the leading pro-life legislators in the State of Arizona having been a sponsor and a major participant on every piece of pro-life legislation and pro-life action taken in the Arizona Legislature since my very first election.

While it is true, Judge O'Connor certainly was not a pro-life proponent while a member of the Arizona Senate, neither was she then nor to my knowledge has she ever been the friend of those who advocate the killing of the innocent unborn babies.

Abortion is a violent, silent holocaust taking place in our country today and is an absolute abomination, the ultimate evil plaguing our society. With the strong feelings that I harbor for the sanctity and the quality of life, I am certain in my own mind that Judge O'Connor shares these same concerns.

It is my opinion that the pro-life movement needs as many converts and friends as possible. This conversion process is normally accomplished through an intellectual and academic stimulus, as well as understanding, love, kindness, and above all, compassion shown to those who are not always sympathetic to our own views.

A prime example in this hearing room today is Representative Art Hamilton, the Democratic Arizona minority leader, who went through this evolution and conversion process and is now one of our leading pro-life advocates.

It is my feeling that Judge O'Connor, in the reflection of the judicial setting, without constituency pressure and the quest for reelection, if she has not already done so, will come to the same conclusions about the sacredness and sanctity of human life both inside and outside the womb.

It is my opinion that her decisions on the bench will reflect that thoughtful, careful, and compassionate consideration that a mother of three and a person of destiny would be expected to reflect.

The phrase, equal justice under the law, will be deeply enriched with a new vibrancy with the confirmation of Judge O'Connor.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to know Sandra O'Connor is to love and to respect her. I assure you that with her grace and her eloquence she will captivate our Nation's Capitol as she has my State of Arizona.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

We will now hear from the Honorable Donna Carlson West, a member of the Arizona House of Representatives.

TESTIMONY OF HON. DONNA CARLSON WEST, ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. WEST. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I might note before I begin my formal remarks that I, too, am a pro-life legislator from Arizona and I am known as the leader of the Stop-ERA movement in Arizona.

Mr. Chairman, I am very honored to have been asked to testify at these hearings on the appointment of Sandra O'Connor to the U.S. Supreme Court. President Reagan has chosen a gracious lady who has served Arizona admirably for a number of years. Our State will sorely miss the talents of such a brilliant lawyer, legislator, and jurist.

Sandra O'Connor is known in Arizona as an outstanding leader. In the legislature she was a driving force in passing many laws which were in the best interests of our State. She showed a commitment to equal treatment of all our citizens by revising antiquated, discriminatory statutes.

She also displayed a genuine concern for the taxpayers by initiating a wide-ranging bill that reduced local property taxes.

In addition to believing that laws should treat all people fairly and that the cost of government should remain reasonable, Sandra O'Connor believed that the actions of government should be a matter of public knowledge. Therefore, she was a strong supporter of legislation requiring government to make decisions in open meetings.

Judge O'Connor, our Nation's first woman State senate majority leader, has been an inspiration to her colleagues. Her personality draws out and enhances the best in others.

I began my association with Sandra O'Connor when I was a staff member in the Senate during her term in office.

I observed her to be meticulous, determined, independent, and, as one of your members said this morning, an ideal woman—a true role model for other women who would seek public office.

As a staunch supporter of the family and woman's important role as a mother and wife, I can assure you that Judge O'Connor also reflects this view.

With her numerous demanding professional and civic responsibilities she remains dedicated to her family. She has always displayed love and support for her sons and husband. She cherishes their shared experiences and private life together.

That is another reason I regard Judge O'Connor as proof that women can successfully combine family and career and contribute much to society in both roles. Many who have tried to persuade our young people that one must be sacrificed at the expense of the other would do well to emulate her approach to combining a professional and family life.

I must say that I disagreed with some of the votes that Sandra Day O'Connor cast as a State legislator. I have many friends who have been very vocal in expressing their opposition to those same votes. Because of my personal views against abortion, I am thankful that these concerns have been expressed. I truly believe that 5 years ago there would not have been the concern on the part of the public nor the members of this committee to ask the questions on abortion that I have heard during the course of this testimony. I am grateful that this issue has been raised by those who are truly concerned.

I am very pleased to hear Judge O'Connor's responses to the very difficult questions which you have asked. They reinforce my respect for the fine qualities she can offer as a jurist.

Her intellect and fair and impartial attitude will earn her the respect and recognition of all those in the Court, and from my observation she has an excellent grasp of a wide range of issues which may come before her. Sandra Day O'Connor understands the power of the Court. She believes in a philosophy of judicial restraint—interpretation rather than legislation.

In her decisions she is guided by logic and fact. Her concern for people often makes those decisions painful. In one case she heard as a superior court judge the decision was made to incarcerate the criminal, a mother who pled not to be separated from her family. Knowing that justice must be served, Judge O'Connor sentenced the woman to jail, knowing the pain the woman would suffer being separated from her children. Sandra O'Connor retired to her chamber and wept. She did what had to be done, but she showed a deep compassion. These qualities will make her a noteworthy, historic Supreme Court Justice.

I urge you to unanimously recommend the confirmation of President Reagan's nominee, Judge Sandra Day O'Connor, to the U.S. Supreme Court; and I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to appear before you and express my views.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

The Honorable Art Hamilton, a member of the Arizona House of Representatives.

TESTIMONY OF HON. ART HAMILTON, ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HAMILTON. Chairman Thurmond and members of the committee, thank you very much. I wish to thank you for this opportunity to address you regarding the nomination of Sandra O'Connor to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. I consider this not only an honor but a tremendous responsibility.

The Supreme Court is for most Americans the last refuge of appeal when we believe our rights have been violated or ignored. This is particularly true of minorities who have reached out to the Court in an effort to see their liberties guaranteed. So I feel peculiarly sensitive to the kind of individual who should hold this awesome power over our lives, and this is in part why I am here.

Sandra O'Connor was an outstanding legislator with whom I served, but that is not why I support her nomination. She is as well an outstanding member of the bench in Arizona, but that is not why I support her nomination.

As I know you now understand, she is clearly an exceptional legal scholar, but that is also not the reason I am here.

I have come to Washington to state my support for Judge O'Connor because I believe that she is totally and resolutely committed to the ideal of equal justice under law.

In my years of dealing with Judge O'Connor I have never failed to be impressed by her intuitive sensitivity to the rights, hopes, and desires of the "have nots" as well as the "haves" of our society.

I do not know and cannot say how Judge O'Connor will vote on specific issues that come before the Court. I am confident that some of those decisions I am not going to agree with.

What I am sure of, and what I believe you can be assured of, is Judge O'Connor's fidelity to the Constitution and her impartiality in guaranteeing the rights of all Americans. She will, as they say, call them as she believes the Constitution calls her to see them. Of this much I am totally confident.

What I believe speaks best from my perspective is that when all else is said what remains is that Sandra O'Connor is a good and