

Mr. Speaker, these are historic and great days in America because President George W. Bush has nominated Judge Samuel Alito to the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker, this is a man of outstanding character and one who has more experience as a sitting judge than any nominee for the Supreme Court in the last 70 years. As always, extremists on the left are viciously attacking this highly qualified nominee because he shares a judicial philosophy with this duly elected President.

Mr. Speaker, what is at stake here with these judicial nominations is the Constitution itself, that miraculous document by which we guard our God-given rights in this country; and what is also at risk is keeping secure the American dream for future generations.

In this day, we sometimes forget that the American dream is actually about human dignity and freedom and self-governance. It is not about the left's moral relativism, which means that those without conscience have a license to do anything without consequence, regardless of its harm to others.

True freedom actually means having a system of self-government that protects the rights of innocent people to live and to be free and to pursue their dreams in their own way, as long as they do not desecrate the lives and rights of others. The choice that faces us in these pivotal times is whether or not we as a people are still capable of understanding and guarding the fundamental rights that undergird our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I have great hope that we still are. Liberal activists on the courts have been undermining the Constitution and America's fundamental rights of liberty and life and property for decades.

Just yesterday, the liberal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled, "There is no fundamental right of parents to be the exclusive provider of information regarding sexual matters to their children. Parents have no due process or privacy right to override the determinations of public schools as to the information to which their children will be exposed while enrolled as students."

Mr. Speaker, for these liberal judges to say that parents have no right to determine what their children are taught about sex, or anything else, for that matter, is outrageous. America has rejected this sort of bankrupt, liberal extremism at the ballot, and now the left is desperately trying to hold on to the courts to force this extremist agenda down the throats of all Americans.

The liberal, secular left wants to take the words "under God" out of the Pledge of Allegiance. They want to completely dismantle marriage and family. They want to end voluntary prayer, any kind of traditional voluntary religious expression in public places.

They teach your children in school that it is "mainstream" in America to use abortion and even partial-birth abortion as a means of birth control. They are saying to the parents of America that if your underage daughter is impregnated by a man, he should be able to

take her to have an abortion without your knowledge or permission, that it is none of your business.

Mr. Speaker, those attacking Judge Alito are so far to the left that they cannot even see the majority of us here in America, and it is so important that the people of this country understand what the left means when they say ``mainstream" when they say that Judge Alito is out of the mainstream. They are talking about his rulings in cases where the overwhelming majority of Americans agree with him. That is the very definition of ``mainstream."

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of this Republic, we must invite those leftists who insist on smearing Judge Alito's reputation to step into open debate where the bright light of truth can shine on their ideology and expose to the people of America exactly how far out of the mainstream they really are.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this debate. It is long overdue. The future of the American people living in freedom depends on it.