



THREE WAYS A SUPREME COURT APPOINTEE COULD RESTRICT FREE SPEECH RIGHTS:

- **Constitutional Protections:** A Scalia-Thomas majority would increase the government's power to regulate and suppress political dissent. In 2003, Scalia went so far as to indicate that it would be permissible to decrease the protections offered by the Constitution for individual American liberties by saying, "The Constitution just sets minimums." Scalia stated that, in wartime, it can be expected that "the protections will be ratcheted right down to the constitutional minimum."
- **Artistic Expression and Scientific Advancement:** A few more Scalia-Thomas justices could advance the view that the government should use its role as a patron of the arts and sciences to control speech. New right-wing justices would continue to pressure the artistic freedoms of artists and writers, and scientists will be profoundly affected as much of their work depends on government funding
- **Freedom of Dissent:** With a few more Scalia-Thomas justices who share a disdainful view of the Bill of Rights, free speech rights could be permanently curtailed. With the passage of the USA Patriot Act – and especially during the debate over and execution of the U.S. invasion of Iraq – Americans have seen their free speech greeted with intimidation and threats of arrest from federal and local law enforcement. Similarly, voices from the right wing have created a culture of intimidation, branding as 'traitors' and 'enemies of the state' Americans who exercise their free speech rights.

SAVE FREE SPEECH

Americans' free speech rights are severely threatened. You can help preserve free speech by helping to save the Supreme Court.

The nine-member Supreme Court interprets the Constitution and laws – a powerful role that has a huge impact on Americans' free speech rights. Right now, the Court is closely divided on key questions, so the people appointed to fill vacancies expected on the Court over the next few years will have a huge effect on Americans' rights for decades to come.

Just one or two new right-wing justices like Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas – the justices who President Bush has called his models for Supreme Court appointments – would seriously threaten free speech rights.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Despite the compromise over the filibuster, there remains an effort by allies of the White House to change Senate rules and make it harder to prevent anyone nominated by the president from getting on the Supreme Court for life. If you don't want your free speech rights to be sacrificed by a far-right dominated Supreme Court, now is the time to take action.



For more information see: **savethecourt.org**

or to get involved call: **1-800-326-7329**