



### THREE WAYS A SUPREME COURT APPOINTEE COULD THREATEN PUBLIC EDUCATION:

- **Privatization:** Just one or two more justices like Scalia and Thomas would further open the doors to dozens of schemes to take money and resources from public schools to subsidize private education. Even challenges to the constitutionality of voucher plans under state law could be doomed if more right-wing justices are added to the Court.
- **Equal opportunity, affirmative action and discrimination in education:** Just two more justices like Scalia and Thomas would deal a devastating blow to educational opportunity by limiting the government's ability to remedy the effects of racial segregation in public schools. In 2003, the Court narrowly upheld some affirmative action to promote diversity in higher education. One more right-wing vote would result in banning affirmative action, threatening diversity in education for decades. Justice Scalia has argued that states have the right to engage in gender-based discrimination in higher education, and the right-wing has repeatedly decried the right to free public education for students with disabilities. More Scalia-Thomas justices could challenge laws designed to prevent discrimination of students based on disability and gender.
- **Religious liberty:** A Scalia-Thomas majority would be hostile to the principle of church-state separation, and would overturn a series of Supreme Court precedents that protect public school students from religious coercion in the classroom and at school activities.

# PROTECT PUBLIC EDUCATION

**America's public education system is at risk. You can help protect public education by helping to save the Supreme Court.**

The nine-member Supreme Court interprets the Constitution and laws – and plays a powerful role in the future of public education in America. Right now, the Supreme 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 public education for decades to come.

We face the very real prospect of as many as four vacancies on the Supreme Court in the next four years. And just one or two new right-wing justices like Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas – the justices President Bush has called his models for Supreme Court appointments – would seriously threaten the future of public education as we know it.

## 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 public education to be weakened or eliminated 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**