



THREE WAYS A SUPREME COURT APPOINTEE COULD RESTRICT RELIGIOUS LIBERTY:

- **State laws threatening religious liberty:** Just one more vote with Thomas and Scalia would have reversed a 2004 ruling and made it impossible to challenge in federal court any state tax law that violates religious liberty under the Constitution. That would mean that a state tax law discriminating in favor of or against religion would be immune from federal lawsuit. Justice Thomas would even allow states or local governments to adopt an official religion.
- **Taxpayer funding of sectarian schools and social services:** Just one more vote like the ones cast by Scalia and Thomas would allow direct government funding of sectarian religious schools, and would probably allow government funding of sectarian social services even when they have an explicitly religious purpose or content. In fact, Scalia and Thomas would require a state to subsidize people training to become ministers if the state offers college scholarships for education or other secular subjects.
- **Religious coercion in public schools:** Just one or two more justices like Scalia and Thomas would allow promotion of religion to “captive audiences” of public school students at school activities, even in classrooms.

PROTECT RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Americans’ constitutionally protected religious liberty is at risk. You can help save religious liberty and preserve the separation of church and state 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’ religious liberty. But there is a powerful movement trying to further weaken the separation of church and state, a key constitutional and legal principle that protects all Americans’ right to worship as they choose, free from government coercion.

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 our religious liberty for decades to come. In some cases, a narrow majority has already harmed church-state separation rights. But adding 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 further threaten religious liberty. The potential damage is widespread.

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 religious liberty protections to be dismantled 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**