

N E W S R E L E A S E



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KING TELLS HARKIN AND FRIENDS: STOP PLAYING POLITICS WITH JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Washington, D.C. –On Wednesday, Iowa Congressman Steve King lashed out at Senate Democrats for continuing to prevent President Bush’s judicial nominees from receiving a vote on the Senate floor.

“I came to Washington to represent Iowans,” said King. **“But as long as Senator Tom Harkin and his Democratic allies obstruct and delay judicial nominations, our legislative priorities for the economy, national security and Medicare reform are in jeopardy.”**

Prior to this year, the record number of cloture votes on a judge was two. On DC Circuit Court nominee Miguel Estrada, the Senate had *seven* cloture votes before Estrada withdrew his name due to exhaustion.

Prior to this year, no judicial nominee brought to the Senate floor failed on a filibuster. There was one failed cloture vote on Abe Fortas for the Supreme Court in 1968 (a vote of 45-43). From statements subsequently put in the *Congressional Record*, it is highly unlikely that Fortas enjoyed majority support. After the one vote, Fortas asked that his name be withdrawn.

This year, four nominees **with majority support** have thus far failed due to Democrat filibusters (Miguel Estrada, Priscilla Owen, William Pryor, and

Charles Pickering), and Democrats have threatened filibusters on many more nominees.

“Senator Harkin and his cronies are playing obstructionist games with their crucial duty to advise and consent in the United States Senate,” said King. **“If Democrats continue to use their childish filibustering antics to block nominations, putting the needs of American families on the back burner, the last laugh will be on them in the 2004 elections.”**

On Wednesday, November 12th, at 6:00pm, the Senate will began a historic, non-stop debate on judicial nominations, the first such all-nighter in more than 11 years. Republicans organized this overnight debate to bring national attention to Democrat delay tactics—which are now spilling over into the appropriations process as well.

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