



Statement of Senator Dianne Feinstein
On the Retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

- *Feinstein is the only woman serving on the Senate Judiciary Committee* -
July 1, 2005

“As the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor is a true pioneer. She has served this nation with distinction and provided a voice of moderation on a deeply divided court. She leaves very large shoes to be filled.

The retirement of Justice O’Connor launches the Senate into a serious and historic debate. This is the ultimate appointment that will determine whether our rights under the Constitution are protected or curtailed. What is apparent is that the next justice will determine the future of *Roe v. Wade*.

It is clear that an overwhelming majority of the American people think women should be able to control their reproductive choices within reason. *Roe*, in my view, must remain the law of the land.

This appointment is the most critical in a generation. It will determine the legacy of this President and the course of this nation for decades to come. There are a great number of distinguished candidates. It is my hope that the President will consult with members of the Senate Judiciary Committee of both parties and nominate a person of integrity and of credibility, a person without bias, with a deep respect for the law, for the Constitution, and for the rights of all Americans.

Sandra Day O’Connor has opened the door to women on the court and moved the court out of the realm of token representation. I believe the President should give serious consideration to appointing another well-qualified woman to the court.

Lastly, the Senate must now take up its Constitutional responsibility of advise and consent. The Senate Judiciary Committee must perform its due diligence and evaluate and review the President’s nominee. I look forward to participating in this historic process.”

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