



**I**ndependent Courts Toolbox™  
created by The Constitution Project's  
COURTS INITIATIVE



*Legislative Action*

## Postcard Writing Campaign

### *In Response To Legislation*

Dear Representative or Senator:

An independent judiciary being necessary to the functioning of a strong democracy, I am opposed to any legislative limitations on the prerogatives or powers of individual judges or the judiciary generally.

While I do not agree with every judicial decision, I feel that my interests are better served in having a judiciary that is free to rule on the basis of law and justice rather than in response to popular opinion, political pressure, or narrow interest groups.

I therefore urge you to oppose (support) (bill number).

Sincerely,

### *In Response To Attacks on the Judiciary*

Dear Representative or Senator:

An independent judiciary being necessary to the functioning of a strong democracy, I take issue with your recent attacks on (the judiciary) (Judge \_\_\_\_\_).

While I do not agree with every judicial decision, I feel that my interests are better served in having a judiciary that is free to rule on the basis of law and justice rather than in response to popular opinion, political pressure, or narrow interest groups. Judges should be subject to criticism on issues involving their integrity and knowledge of the law, not on a "good faith" interpretation of the law in individual decisions.

Sincerely,

## **On Legislative Action Detrimental to Judicial Independence**

Dear Representative or Senator:

I am opposed to any action to limit judicial independence or access to the courts, including reduction of judicial budgets or seats, stripping courts of authority to hear certain types of cases, and legislative impeachment of judges on any basis other than a lack of integrity or competence.

The judiciary is the third, co-equal branch of government. The other two branches should not subject it to any coercive action designed to punish or to compel judicial decisions.

Sincerely,

5/28/2001