



William J. Murray

The Chairman's Action Report

Religious
Freedom
Coalition

January 25, 2006

UNDER GOD IN THE PLEDGE

In February we will begin delivering petitions to individual congressmen asking them to support Congressman Todd Akin’s Pledge Protection Act. We have received many thousands of petitions, with hundreds more coming in each day.

Last year we distributed more than 100,000 petitions and in the first month of this year we have distributed another 30,000 printed petitions. In addition, hundreds of people are filling out the Internet version of the petition we have posted at www.pledgeundergod.org. Every single day we receive bundles of petitions that have been signed by Americans who have downloaded their copies from our Internet site.

To generate even more petitions on the Internet we began a program of “sponsor driven” advertising on Google, Yahoo, AOL and other search engines. Any time the words “pledge of allegiance” are placed in one of these search engine sites, our ad promoting the petition can be seen. The cost to us is about 10 cents each time someone goes to our site to print out a petition. This is still much less than the 39 cents it costs to mail one!

[One Nation Under God](http://www.pledgeundergod.org)
Help keep "**under God**" in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag
www.pledgeundergod.org



RFC's Jon Sowers sorting petitions by state. Once a state bin is full , the petitions are taken to another sorting bin to break down by District. So far the most petitions are from California.

When the petitions arrive in our office they are first sorted by state. At left you can see our staff person Jon Sowers dividing up a stack of petitions in our first sorting station by state. As soon as a state bin is full, the petitions are taken out and then sorted further by congressional district. California has a total of 53 districts and as a result has its own dedicated set of sorting bins. So far we have received more petitions from California than any other state and this is probably because it is where atheist Michael Newdow has filed his God hating lawsuit to remove the words “under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance.

Originally we had planned to produce and ship out at least 1,000,000 more printed petitions in 2006 but the demand is going to far exceed that. We now have church groups requesting large numbers of petitions. In many instances we have simply told larger groups to please download a blank petition from our Internet site and copy them! Please pray with us that every one of those petitions will be signed and returned!

Next month I promise you that there will be photographs of myself and others delivering signed petitions to congressmen. I actually look forward to personally delivering petitions to some of the more outspoken opponents of public prayer such as Congressman Henry Waxman of California.

Although we do not have an exact date set as yet, we may hold a press conference on the steps of the Capitol Building to display many of the petitions before they are delivered.

As I mentioned in the last Chairman's Report, public awareness is very important to winning this battle to preserve "under God" in the Pledge. We have three programs for public awareness, one of which I mentioned above. First, our Internet advertising campaign to promote the petitions will reach hundreds of thousands of people even if they do not actually sign a petition.

Second, we have hired a publicist to help book myself, Congressman Akin and others on radio and TV to help promote the Pledge Protection Act. Just this week I appeared on two nationwide TV shows on the Daystar Network, which has all Christian programming. On Monday, January 23rd, I appeared live on Celebration and also on the Joni Show. Both shows will be rebroadcast on Daystar several times. On Tuesday, January 24th I was on the Point of View radio show that is nationwide on hundreds of Christian and conservative stations.

Third is our "One Nation Under God" bumper sticker campaign. Our goal is to have cars in every county in the United States with a "One Nation Under God" Bumper sticker. Already we have sent out several thousand of the "One nation Under God" bumper stickers. Twice already, we have had to reorder more of the popular stickers from the printer. We are sending these to anyone who sends any amount of money to help with the campaign, as long as it is enough to pay for the postage for the bumper sticker. Because this letter is printed in only two colors, the dramatic effect of the red, white and blue bumper sticker is sort of lost, but I can tell you that they are really dramatic.



THE SUPREME COURT AND JUDGE ALITO

As I mentioned in the last Chairman's Report, because the Religious Freedom Coalition is a non-profit organization we cannot work directly on the confirmation hearings for Judge Samuel Alito other than to report on the issues. But, our sister organization, the Religious Freedom Action Coalition, can work directly to confirm Judge Alito who is one of the most qualified men ever to be nominated.

When World Magazine ran a photo spread of events in its January 21st issue our own Peggy Birchfield was pictured standing next to the podium at a Press Club event!

I was already scheduled to be out of the country before the date of the Alito hearings was set and could not be in Washington, DC. Fortunately my daughter Katie, who is a student in the engineering school at Virginia Tech, was on her winter break and was able to do much of the work for us in Washington, DC during the week of the hearings.

Pro-Family groups held a kick off press conference in front of the US Supreme Court on Monday, January 9th and Katie Murray was there to participate in the press conference to show our support for Judge Samuel Alito. Women who had had abortions were there carrying signs saying "My abortion Hurt Me" and sharing their stories of the emotional, spiritual, and physical consequences they suffered from their legal abortions.

These women spoke about how the Supreme Court's 1973 ruling brought abortion on demand to America and fooled people like them into thinking abortion was not wrong and that it hurt no one. They even assumed it was safe since it was legal. Now these women believe we need fair Justices like Alito who will review all the facts and restore justice in America.

Many Pro-life groups and the "Red Team", which wore red head bands and red T-shirts with A+ Alito on the back and front, attended events in support of Alito and justice. (These T-shirts were furnished by our sister organization, the Religious Freedom Action Coalition). Volunteers pushed empty strollers in memory of the unborn babies that have been aborted. The radial left, largely outnumbered, wore blood painted shirts and carried coat hangers, I guess in memory of the babies they have killed.



As Judge Alito enters Senate building, volunteers wearing the red RFAC T-shirts cheer him on!

As one woman spoke about her painful experience, a young man from the left shouted at her. He called her a "woman-hater" as she attempted to warn other women of the pain she experienced from abortion, to prevent them from suffering as well.

During the week Katie and others participated with the "Red Team" at "People for the Alito Way" rallies to show that Americans want a fair up or down vote for Judge Samuel Alito. Many rallies were held during hearing breaks. As mentioned above, the RFAC purchased the red T-shirts and stickers that the "Red Team" wore as they lined the hallways whenever Judge Alito approached the hearing room. Each day, they would gather for Alito's entrance and exit to encourage Alito and his wife and to show their support. The "Red Team" exhibited much enthusiasm throughout the week that showed onlookers that many Americans want a fair judge like Alito.

On Wednesday January 11th, Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) hosted the Freedom from Discrimination rally right outside where the hearings are taking place. Senator Cornyn remarked: "He's spent his entire career serving the United States of America... we've heard all the testimonials of his fairness and commitment to the rule of law." Former US Attorney General John Ashcroft said Alito has shown a "willingness to abide by the rule of law" as a prosecutor and a judge and says that he is "not an inventor of the law." It is for those reasons that the Religious Freedom Action Coalition supports Alito. Commander Margot Hill, a Deputy Superintendent with the Boston Police Department, and Louis Cannon, President of the DC Fraternal Order of Police, showed strong support as well. Congressman Trent Franks also spoke. Franks said that Alito "understands the miracle of our Constitution." This understanding is needed in our courts for interpreting, rather than legislating, to take place behind the bench.

The week ended with Katie Murray participating in Senator Orrin Hatch's press conference in which former Alito clerks showed their support for Judge Alito and responded to the unfair attacks from the Democrats. One of those former clerks is a man named Jeff Wasserstein. He is a registered Democrat who is "angry and ashamed by the Democrats in this committee." Although his money and support goes toward the Democratic party, he believes Alito "deserves to be confirmed."

For information on how the Religious Freedom Action Coalition is helping to bring reason to the Supreme Court, check out the Internet site at www.rfacation.org.

LEADERSHIP FIGHT COULD AFFECT SOCIAL CONSERVATIVES

I was just shocked when some of my good friends in the conservative movement sent out e-mail blasts urging that Congressman Shadegg be elected to the position of Majority Leader now that Tom Delay has stepped down permanently from that post.

While Congressman Shadegg is a good conservative and former chairman of the Republican Study Committee, he is notably absent from meetings held by social conservatives. No one on the staff of the Religious Freedom Coalition can recall a single time that he has attended one of the weekly Values Action Team Meetings for social conservative groups.



William Murray discussing legislation with acting Majority Leader Roy Blunt

I have never seen him at a working meeting of social conservatives on Capitol Hill and I have virtually no access to him at all. On the other hand, I meet with acting Majority Leader Roy Blunt almost weekly. Most weeks that Congress is in session I see him more than once. He regularly attends various social conservative functions in Washington, DC outside of legislative circles. When the Jack Abramoff scandal of the misuse of funds associated with Indian gambling arose, Roy Blunt had no fears at all of being tainted because he accepts no contributions at all from “gaming” interests.

Congressman Blunt’s other challenger to the position of Majority Leader is Congressman John Boehner (R-OH). Astonishingly, I have never once met Congressman Boehner. He has never to my knowledge attended any social conservative activities on the Hill. This is yet another reason why I strongly back Roy Blunt in his bid to become permanent Majority Leader when the election is held on Thursday, February 2, 2006.

Speaker Hastert - the big Republican boss on the Hill - is no friend to conservative Christians. In fact he tried to put a known homosexual congressman into Tom DeLay’s spot last year. With Tom DeLay out and Speaker Hastert against us, Roy Blunt is the only powerful friend we have in leadership. Because we are a non-profit group, we cannot lobby on behalf of Congressman Blunt. We can only pray that the Republicans who control the House will vote in a godly man such as Roy Blunt to the Majority Leader position.

JUST SEVEN BLOCKS

Frequently I am asked how I come up with as many photos of myself and other members of our staff with congressmen and Senators. Here is the secret: our office is just seven blocks from the Capitol Dome and virtually every day Congress is in session we are talking to congressmen and Senators about legislation important to social conservative Christians such as yourself. There is always someone around with a camera and when we see photos being taken we sometimes ask for copies to be e-mailed to us. Sometimes we take our own digital camera with us just in case we run into an interesting scene we want to take a photo of to pass along to you. But the real reason we have so many photos like those in this Chairman’s Report is because we actually do work for you on Capitol Hill!

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William J. Murray, Chairman