

in 1994." He went on to note: "The Senate is surely under no obligation to confirm any particular nominee, but after the necessary time for inquiry it should vote him up or vote him down."

For some unexplained reason, judicial nominees who are women or racial or ethnic minorities seem to take the longest. Of the 10 judicial nominees whose nominations have been pending the longest before the Senate, eight are women and racial or ethnic minority candidates. A ninth has been delayed in large measure because of opposition to his mother, who already serves as a judge. The tenth is one who blew the lid off the \$1.4 million right-wing campaign to "kill" Clinton judicial nominees.

Pending on the Senate calendar, having been passed over again and again, are Judge Sonia Sotomayor, Judge Richard Paez and Susan Oki Mollway. Ronnie White has now finally been reported, as well. Held up in Committee after two hearings is Clarence Sundram. Still without a hearing are Anabelle Rodriguez, Judge James A. Beaty, Jr., and Jorge C. Rangel. What all these nominees have in common is that they are either women or members of racial or ethnic minorities. That is a shame.

EXHIBIT No. 1

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 1998.

Hon. TRENT LOTT,
Senate Majority Leader, Russell Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. ORRIN G. HATCH,
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, Russell Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. FRED THOMPSON,
Chairman, Senate Government Affairs Committee, Dirksen Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER AND MR. CHAIRMAN: As Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), we are writing to express our grave concern with the lack of progress and consideration of judicial nominees before the Senate. In particular, we are profoundly distressed that several of those nominees are highly qualified individuals of Latino descent. While this Congress has seen a slowdown in the confirmation process it is notable that Latino judicial nominees have been subjected to inexplicable delays.

Of the Federal judges confirmed in the 105th Congress (1997 and 1998), only 2 have been Latinos. At present, there are a number of Latinos with strong judicial and academic qualifications pending Senate judicial confirmation. Yet, several Latino judicial nominees have languished unjustifiably in the Senate for over two years and only two of the candidates have been reported out of committee.

The delay in the confirmation process results in significantly higher caseloads for existing Federal judges, and a system that guarantees frustration for those who utilize it. Already, and Second Circuit has been declared a "judicial emergency"—the circuit has seats that have been vacant for more than 18 months. Overburdened judges and a slowdown of court proceedings undermine faith in our judicial system and our democracy as a whole.

Inaction by the Senate is contributing to the underrepresentation of Latinos on the Federal bench. Latinos make up less than 5%

of all Federal judges. We urge your prompt and favorable action in confirming judicial candidates.

Sincerely,

XAVIER BECERRA,
JOSÉ E. SERRANO.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ROSELLA
SCHNAKENBERG

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Ms. Rosella Schnakenberg, a woman who has served her friends and fellow Missourians for more than 50 years. Although this service has transcended occupational boundaries, the most prominent way Ms. Schnakenberg, a lifelong resident of the Cole Camp community, has benefitted her fellow citizens has been to hold a pivotal role at the First Community Bank in Ionia, Missouri.

During her time as an employee of First Community Bank, Ms. Schnakenberg has helped customers open accounts, fill out and process loan applications, save for the future, balance checkbooks, and cash pay checks. In addition to this long list of responsibilities, what is remarkable about this versatile employee is that she performs her duties with enthusiasm and concern. That attitude has helped propel Ms. Schnakenberg from a teller who earned \$75 a month to a Vice President and Facility Manager, overseeing day-to-day operations of the bank. During her lengthy tenure, she has observed the bank change and grow from an establishment that applied for deposits by hand and lacked indoor plumbing to an institution that functions and flourishes in the modern world.

First Community Bank has not only prospered economically, under Ms. Schnakenberg's leadership, it has also benefitted from her research and recording of the bank's colorful history. That history includes a Depression-era incident when one of the bank managers had cashiers band a high-value bill on both sides of the \$1 bill stacks.

Mrs. Schnakenberg has also touched the lives of the people around her through the unselfish distribution of her time, such as serving in community activities, visiting friends in nursing homes, and playing the organ at St. John's Lutheran Church services.

To honor Ms. Schnakenberg, First Community Bank hosted a reception in her honor on Sunday, March 22, 1998, in Ionia, Missouri. It is an honor for me to recognize such a fine Missourian and to serve her in the U.S. Senate.

THE SCHOOL TRAGEDY IN
SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, we were all shocked and saddened by the tragic shooting incident at the Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon. I listened with sympathy this morning to my colleagues from Oregon, and share their sentiments. My heart goes out to the victims of this horrendous crime,

and my prayers are with the injured, and with the families of all the victims in the Springfield community. I know that every parent or grandparent who sends a child to school shares the grief of the Springfield families.

This kind of tragedy has become far too common. It was only two months ago that we were shocked by the violence and horror of the schoolyard shooting in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Every day, it seems, we are assailed by new stories of senseless crimes committed by juveniles who should be too young to be capable of such acts.

Our juvenile crime problem has taken a new and sinister direction. I can imagine few acts more heinous than some of the crimes recently committed by juveniles around the country. We seem now to be in a new era, in which juveniles are committing sophisticated adult crimes. This disturbing trend demonstrates the need to reform the juvenile justice system that is failing the victims of juvenile crime, failing too many of our young people, and ultimately, failing society.

The Senate has before it comprehensive youth violence legislation. S. 10, the Hatch-Sessions Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Act, reported out of the Judiciary Committee last year on bipartisan vote. The goal of S. 10 is to reform and redirect the role played by the federal government in addressing juvenile crime in our Nation.

Responding to the testimony and advice of many state and local officials, S. 10 reauthorizes and streamlines the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), which provides assistance to the states in fighting juvenile crime. S. 10 also creates a \$500 million per year incentive block grant program for the states. These block grants can be used for a multitude of purposes, such as incarceration, graduated sanctions, serious and habitual offender programs, juvenile criminal record sharing, drug testing and treatment of juvenile arrestees, and numerous prevention programs.

In the face of tragedies such as the Springfield and Jonesboro murders, it is tempting to look for easy answers. I do not believe that we should succumb to this temptation. We are faced, I believe, with a problem which cannot be solved solely by the enactment of new criminal prohibitions. It is at its core a moral problem. Somehow, in this case and too many others like it, we have failed as a society to pass along to the next generation the moral compass that differentiates right from wrong. This cannot be legislated. It will not be restored by the enactment of a new law or the implementation of a new program. But it can be achieved by communities working together to teach accountability by example and by early intervention when the signs clearly point to violent and antisocial behavior, as seems to be the case in some of these tragedies.