

**Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations**



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Rob Keithan  
Director

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Dear Senator,

On behalf of the over 1050 congregations that make up the Unitarian Universalist Association, I urge you to stand in support of a fair and independent judiciary. We ask that you oppose the so-called “nuclear option” to end the filibuster.

As a denomination dedicated to promoting both religious liberty and healthy democracy, we believe that the values of fairness, integrity and mutual respect for differing viewpoints must guide the policy process. We are concerned about the increasingly inflammatory rhetoric directed at judges and the coordinated effort to question the faith of those who hold different political views. No one religious group or political party can ever hold a monopoly on spiritual conviction. To claim that minority-party senators and their supporters are acting ‘against people of faith’ because they wish to preserve the Senate filibuster is an affront to millions of devout Americans.

This willingness to attack minority viewpoints is a primary reason why the Unitarian Universalist Association has joined with a large coalition of groups—many of whom represent minority constituencies—to oppose the nuclear option. While the filibuster has not always been used to advance the cause of justice, it remains a powerful and necessary check on the power of the majority. The Constitution clearly reflects the Founder’s intent to have a balance of powers in government, and we believe that the filibuster is a proper safeguard for ensuring that balance.

Indeed, nowhere within our system of government is it more important to have broad-based support than with lifetime appointments to the federal judiciary. Rather than working to ensure that appointments can be made with the least support possible, we believe that Senator Frist should be finding ways to ensure that nominees have the broadest support possible. In our Unitarian Universalist tradition, we know that diversity of opinion can be a blessing. Despite significant theological differences, our congregations thrive because we know that we need not think alike to love alike.

We believe that the American public will be best served by a nominations process that seeks to build a broad consensus, not by one that seeks to silence minorities. If the nuclear option is enacted, it would irreparably damage the Senate’s role of advice and consent, and fundamentally alter the balance of powers in government. We urge you to maintain a fair and independent judiciary by opposing the nuclear option.

In Faith,

Robert C. Keithan, Director