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Smith: Judge Sotomayor's Statements Raise Concern about Bias

Washington, D.C. - Ranking Member Lamar Smith today issued the following statement responding to President Obama's decision to nominate Judge Sonia Sotomayor to serve on the Supreme Court:

"The most important criterion for unelected federal judges is that they decide cases impartially, based on the law and free from personal bias. Any federal judge, especially a Supreme Court Justice, must set aside their personal preferences and decide cases in accordance with Constitutional principles.

"I am concerned that Judge Sotomayor's public statements show personal bias based on ethnicity and gender. Judges must never substitute their personal prejudices for the rule of law and the clear meaning of the Constitution. Judge Sotomayor will need to reassure the country that she will set aside her biases, uphold the rule of law and interpret the Constitution as written, not as she believes it should have been written."

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