



**CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE  
OF KENTUCKY**

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May 2, 2005

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
361-A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

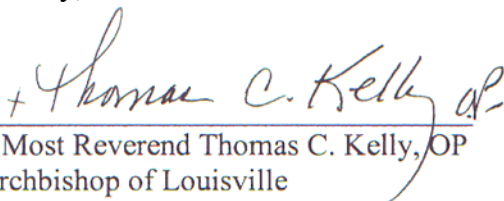
Dear Senator McConnell,

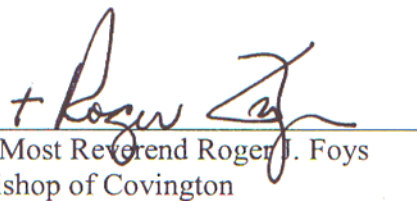
Federal judges have important constitutional roles in our democracy. They decide matters of human life and human dignity. As a senator, you have significant responsibilities when voting on nominees for federal judgeships.

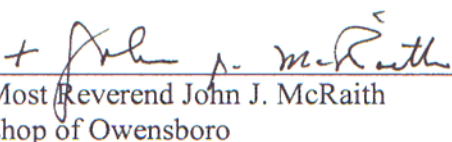
The Catholic Church is committed to the right to life from conception until natural death. This ethic has profound consequences for many issues, including abortion, the death penalty, the application of scientific research to human subjects, the right to adequate health care, and the role of the state in promoting the common good. We do not believe that our society is well served when senators impose a pro-abortion litmus test on well-qualified judicial candidates. We appreciate the fact that you do not require support for Roe versus Wade as a condition for determining a nominee's fitness for judicial office.

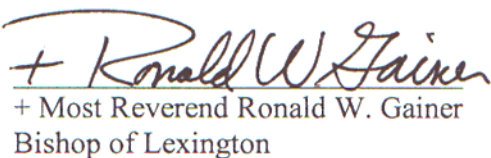
We ask for God's blessings as you work to insure that federal judges are persons of integrity who will respect the rights of all. Thanks for your fidelity to the right to life of the unborn.

Sincerely,

  
+ Most Reverend Thomas C. Kelly, OP  
Archbishop of Louisville

  
+ Most Reverend Roger J. Foys  
Bishop of Covington

  
+ Most Reverend John J. McRaith  
Bishop of Owensboro

  
+ Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer  
Bishop of Lexington