

HOUSE RESOLUTION 178

By Holt

A RESOLUTION to thank Senator Lamar Alexander and Senator Bob Corker for their position to not move forward on a nomination to the Supreme Court by the current administration.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness that this legislative body learned of the untimely passing of United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia; and

WHEREAS, the longest-serving member of the current Supreme Court at the time of his death, Justice Antonin Scalia was nominated for appointment to the United States Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan in 1986 and was confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, a staunch advocate for free speech and a leading conservative voice on the Supreme Court, Justice Scalia stood out for his textualist interpretation that put emphasis on the actual words in the Constitution itself and for vehemently guarding against modes of interpretation by which judges imposed their own policy preferences onto cases; and

WHEREAS, the death of Justice Antonin Scalia will lead to the presidential nomination of and eventual confirmation by the U.S. Senate of a new Justice of the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's United States Senator Lamar Alexander has said, "I believe it is reasonable to give the American people a voice by allowing the next president to fill this lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court. Under our Constitution, the president has the right to nominate, but the Senate has the right to decide whether to consent at this point in a presidential election year."; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bob Corker of Tennessee similarly said, "The president has the right to nominate a Supreme Court justice, and the Constitution gives the Senate the power to

decide whether to confirm the nominee, but at this point I believe it would be more prudent to have the American people express their voice in deciding the future direction of our country."; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body expects that the mutual decision of Senator Alexander and Senator Corker to refrain from entertaining a nomination to the Supreme Court by the current administration be sustained regardless of any conditions that may occur before the election of a new administration; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby thank Senator Lamar Alexander and Senator Bob Corker for their position to not move forward on a nomination to the Supreme Court by the current administration and expect their decision to refrain from entertaining a nomination by the current administration be sustained regardless of any conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to Senator Lamar Alexander and Senator Bob Corker.