



**For Immediate Release**

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**STATEMENT: Why Courts Matter - PA Coalition on Supreme Court Vacancy**

PENNSYLVANIA – The Why Courts Matter - Pennsylvania coalition made the following statement regarding the vacancy on the Supreme Court:

"This past weekend, the nation grieved the passing of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. There is no denying the impact Justice Scalia has had on the country as a jurist. As our thoughts remain with his family and friends, much discussion has ensued about the new vacancy on the nation's highest court.

"Just hours after learning of the death of Justice Scalia, Republican Senate leadership pledged to block any appointment made by President Obama. It is important to see past the GOP's misguided political strategy, and recognize that the President has a constitutional responsibility to nominate a successor to Justice Scalia. What's more, the Senate has a constitutional obligation to advise and consent – that is, to have a timely, fair hearing for this nominee, and proceed to an up or down vote on that nominee's merits.

"Senator Toomey is among the Senate leadership refusing to fulfill this constitutional obligation and instead was quoted as saying, 'it is common for vacancies that arise on the Supreme Court to await the outcome of the next election.' Senator Toomey is just flat out wrong.

"Let's be clear, this isn't just run of the mill obstruction – this is, potentially, a constitutional crisis. This is politics at its worst, hypocrisy of the highest order, and Americans deserve better. Pennsylvanians certainly should expect more from a senator who has touted his cooperation and progress on judicial vacancies in the state. There is still time for Senator Toomey and his colleagues to right this wrong"

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*Why Courts Matter PA is a coalition of organizations and advocates who have come together to ensure that our federal courts work to the benefit of all Americans in keeping with the core constitutional values of liberty, equality and justice for all. WCM-PA supports an appointment and confirmation process that identifies and provides timely confirmation votes for well-qualified nominees for federal judgeships who are dedicated to fairness and impartiality. [Learn more about WCM-PA here.](#)*