

PRESS STATEMENT OF SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD (D-WV)

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BYRD STATEMENT ON THE RESIGNATION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALBERTO GONZALES

WASHINGTON, DC ó U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, (D-WV), issued the following statement on the resignation of U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales:

“The departure of Alberto Gonzales is long overdue. Under his leadership, the Justice Department has lost sight of its mission to protect the Constitution and defend the rights of the American people. For far too long, the law has been ignored, civil liberties have been compromised, and the mission of the Justice Department has been transformed into a political vehicle for the Bush Administration.

“Whoever President Bush chooses to nominate to this important position must prove that they respect and understand their responsibility to the American people, not to the Bush Administration. Our next Attorney General cannot be someone who dissembles and puts a premium on misleading the Congress the way Alberto Gonzales did. The next Attorney General will have much work to do to repair the damage to our civil rights and restore the confidence of the American people and rebuild the Justice Department with the integrity and respect it deserves.”

Senator Byrd opposed the nomination of Alberto Gonzales as Attorney General and most recently joined in cosponsoring and voting for S.J.Res.14 which expressed the sense of the Senate that Attorney General Gonzales no longer held the confidence of the Senate and of the American people.

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