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### Judicial Changes?

Nine people are all that currently stand between the United States of America's Constitution and our Federal Government. These nine people, known as Supreme Court justices, are in charge of upholding the Constitution of the United States of America, interpreting the Constitution, declaring laws unconstitutional, and setting precedents that will be followed by lower courts across the nation for years to come. It is absolutely necessary to our nation's freedom from tyranny that this body of judges remain for years to come.

Our Federal System of government is unique, in part due to the fact that it contains three separate branches, with equal power and different responsibilities. The Executive branch head, the President, is elected through the Electoral College, and then he appoints his cabinet, federal judges, and many other positions. The Legislative branch is our Congress, and they are elected by popular vote by districts. The Judicial system is remarkably different; the justices that sit on those benches are not elected at all. They are appointed by the President, and then they are confirmed by the Senate.

Although many may balk due to the fact that these nine justices are not directly elected by the people, it is actually a beneficial thing that they are not elected by the people, as this means that they do not have to worry about the political arena, providing them the power to judge as they believe is fair and constitutional. This freedom of the justices is further strengthened by the fact that they are appointed for a lifetime to their positions. A perfect example of this freedom of the justices to rule as they see best fit was recently exhibited when

Chief Justice John Roberts cast the deciding vote in favor of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, despite the fact that he is a conservative Justice appointed by a conservative President. Without these protections, these justices would be tied down to partisan fights, rather than the nonpartisan position that their job title requires them to maintain.

All too often, bills that are passed by both houses of Congress and signed by the President include many provisions and riders that violate our rights as American citizens. These pass through the bodies that represent us for various reasons, such as the bill's name, big money, lobbyist, and partisan support, but when they pass, these bills then become laws that will have a negative effect on the way that we live our lives. It is the responsibility of the United States Supreme Court to hear cases when a citizen or politician challenges the Constitutionality of these laws, and ultimately rule on them.

A future without the Supreme Court, although impossible to predict with 100% accuracy, can be predicted within a good confidence interval that there will be far more laws passed that will take away our freedoms and our rights as Americans. Politicians will realize that there is nothing to stop them from excessive taxation, invasive intrusions into our private lives, out of control "pork-barrel" spending, and the grand larceny of all of our other rights that we currently have. Once you remove the barriers and safeguards to prevent this, like a dam bursting, all of our freedom will vanish, and we will live in a society similar to that of the one portrayed in George Orwell's novel *1984*.

In closing, John Dalberg-Acton's famous quote "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely." effectively summarizes why we should not under any circumstances abolish the judicial branch or any part of it. Any politician who tells you otherwise is corrupted, and has one thing on the mind: power.