



C-SPAN Statement on Today's Senate Judiciary Committee Passage Of Two Bills Concerning TV Cameras in the Supreme Court

(Washington, DC, April 29, 2010) – The Senate Judiciary Committee today held a mark-up session which included consideration of two bills related to television cameras in the Supreme Court. One, S. 446, is a bill that *requires* the Supreme Court to televise its oral arguments unless it votes, on an argument- by-argument basis, to shut off the cameras when it believes the coverage would harm the due process rights of any of the participants. The second bill, S. Res. 339, expresses the sense of the Senate that the Supreme Court *should* allow television camera coverage of its arguments. Both bills passed 13-6, representing the greatest number of pro-camera votes in recent Senate Judiciary Committee history.

C-SPAN corporate vice president and general counsel Bruce Collins said this in response to today's votes:

“C-SPAN prefers not to take a position on legislation forcing the Court to televise its arguments. That is up to public officials. But as a matter of principle we continue to advocate for television coverage of Supreme Court oral arguments, as we have for greater openness of America's government in general. It is encouraging to see the increasing number of Senators on the Judiciary Committee who share our view. It is consistent with C-SPAN's polling which shows increasing public support for cameras in the court. We expect the Supreme Court nominee will be asked for his/her opinion on the subject as well during the upcoming hearings.”

A September 2009 C-SPAN poll showed two-thirds of Americans (65%) want TV cameras in the Supreme Court . (<http://supremecourt.c-span.org/assets/pdf/CSPANSupremeCourtPollSept242009.pdf>)

Additional information and background about this issue can be found on C-SPAN's cameras in the court website: <http://www.c-span.org/CamerasInCourt/> .

About C-SPAN: C-SPAN was created by America's cable companies in 1979 as a public service and programs three public affairs television networks (C-SPAN, C-SPAN2 and C-SPAN3); C-SPAN Radio, a Washington, D.C. public affairs radio station distributed by XM Satellite Radio; and a video-rich website which hosts the C-SPAN Video Library. Visit www.c-span.org.

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