FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Virginia Sloan
(202) 580-6923

SENATOR ARLEN SPECTER’S PRESIDENTIAL SIGNING STATEMENTS ACT: AMERICA’S FOUNDERS WOULD BE PROUD

The Constitution Project Applauds Sen. Specter’s Constitutional Commitment

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 26, 2006) – The Constitution Project, the first bipartisan group to formally express concern about presidential signing statements, today applauded Senator Specter’s commitment to the Constitution through his introduction of the Presidential Signing Statements Act of 2006.

“Our country’s founders would be very proud of Senator Specter’s commitment to our system of checks and balances. Our democracy not only depends on this system, but our Constitution requires it,” said Virginia Sloan, president of The Constitution Project.

“Not only must the Executive Branch obey the dictates of the Constitution and veto bills it finds objectionable, thereby giving Congress the opportunity to override or sustain a veto, but the Congress must step up to the plate and carry out its role as a separate, independent, and equal branch of government,” said Sloan. “Senator Specter’s bill demands this and Congress should follow suit and quickly pass this vitally important legislation.”

Just last month, The Constitution Project’s Coalition to Defend Checks and Balances – a broad bipartisan group of former government officials, judges, scholars, and other top constitutional experts from across the country – called for both the Executive and Legislative branches to exercise their constitutional obligations to protect and defend our country’s system of separation of powers. The Coalition called on the President to “immediately abandon the… uses of the presidential signing statement” that circumvent the President’s constitutional obligation to execute the laws that Congress passes. It also called on Congress to “make unmistakably clear … the costs” of the inappropriate use of signing statements by, for example, denying funding for programs the President supports.

The Constitution Project formulates bipartisan solutions to contemporary constitutional and legal issues by combining high-level scholarship and public education. For more information, and to read The Constitution Project’s statement on presidential signing statements, background information on presidential signing statements, and the Coalition’s initial statement, please visit www.constitutionproject.org.

-- ## --