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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CIVIL RIGHTS BREAKTHROUGH

HISTORIC CIVIL RIGHTS COMPROMISE BECOMES A REALITY

NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO, WE BEGAN A ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE JOURNEY THROUGH THE THICKETS OF TITLE VII AND DISPARATE IMPACT LAW.

AFTER ONE VETO, ONE ATTEMPTED VETO OVERRIDE, SEVERAL FLOOR VOTES, AND LOTS OF OVERHEATED RHETORIC, WE FINALLY END THIS JOURNEY WITH A COMPROMISE.

LAST NIGHT, SENATOR JACK DANFORTH, WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF JOHN SUNUNU, AND WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL BOYDEN GRAY PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT THAT PRESIDENT BUSH WILL ACCEPT.

THIS AGREEMENT WILL REMAIN FIRM IF NO POLITICALLY ATTRACTIVE -- BUT POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE -- AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED, PARTICULARLY AN AMENDMENT LIFTING THE CAPS ON DAMAGE AWARDS.

THE COMPROMISE IS NOT PERFECT. IT WILL NOT SATISFY EVERYONE.

THE CAPS ON DAMAGES MAY BE FAIRLY REASONABLE -- TOO LOW FOR SOME BUT A BIT TOO HIGH FOR OTHERS.

THE LANGUAGE ON WARDS COVE MAY BE TOO BROAD TO SOME, OR TOO NARROW TO OTHERS.

BUT THAT'S THE NATURE OF A COMPROMISE, AND THAT'S THE BEST WE CAN DO UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE IS PRODUCE AN AGREEMENT THAT -- ONCE AND FOR ALL -- WILL UNTIE THE GORDIAN KNOT OF CIVIL RIGHTS -- AND WITHOUT PRODUCING QUOTAS.

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT MY REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUE FROM MISSOURI, SENATOR DANFORTH, DESERVES OUR PRAISE FOR WORKING TIRELESSLY TO GET WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

WITHOUT A DOUBT, SENATOR DANFORTH'S LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN THE ENGINE DRIVING THE COMPROMISE EFFORT. THIS ENGINE HAS NOW COME INTO THE STATION.

AND LET'S NOT FORGET PRESIDENT BUSH, WHO HAS TIME-AND-TIME AGAIN STATED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT A FAIR AND RESPONSIBLE CIVIL RIGHTS PROPOSAL.

WELL, TODAY, WITH THIS AGREEMENT -- AN HISTORIC AGREEMENT -- PRESIDENT BUSH HAS DELIVERED ON HIS PROMISE.

WE CAN HAVE A CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1991.

THE TIME FOR DIVISIVENESS HAS ENDED, AND THE TIME FOR HEALING HAS BEGUN.

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