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Date: 7/12/01 5:12:30 PM
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Subject: nomination of Jeffrey Sutton

I would like to express my extreme opposition to the Nomination of Jeffrey Sutton to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. While Mr. Sutton might have some qualifications for this position, his very biased position on the Americans with Disabilities Act and people with disabilities would clearly prevent him from giving fair consideration to cases brought before him related to the ADA. Mr. Sutton's comments to the Supreme Court that "disability discrimination, in a constitutional sense, is really difficult to show" and "There are legitimate reasons for treating the competent differently from the incompetent" are frightening and insulting.

I have been disabled since I had polio at age 5. I have faced real discrimination for the past 50 years, from being told I would not be considered for employment because of my disability (in pre-ADA days) to not being able to use the buildings and public services my tax dollars help support. Since 1962 I have been a taxpayer and a voter. I would be willing to match my competence against any of my non-disabled peers. I have, by the way, never been denied the right to pay taxes because of my disability.

Mr. Sutton brings a prejudice that has perpetuated the barriers to full inclusion of people with disabilities throughout our history. He should not sit in a position where he can destroy the lives of people with disabilities with decisions based on that prejudice.

Please use your influence to see to it that people are appointed to appeals court positions whose personal prejudices will not guide their decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann Ford
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