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Subject: Final set of talking points on Priscilla Owen #4
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[StatementPriscillaOwen#4.doc](#)

Statement on Priscilla Owen
Tuesday, May 24, 2005
Draft #4

- For more than four years, I have nominated men and women of exceptional experience, character, and intellect to serve in the federal judiciary. The bipartisan agreement reached last night between Senate Republicans and Democrats means that men and women who have been waiting a long time for an up-or-down vote are now going to get one. That is a victory for fairness and our courts.
- I would like to thank Leader Frist and the two Senators from my home state of Texas – Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and Senator John Cornyn. Because of their principled stand, Priscilla Owen soon will take her seat as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals.
- Priscilla Owen has been waiting more than four years for this day. I know Justice Owen well. She has served on the Texas Supreme Court since 1995, and was re-elected to that court by an overwhelming majority in 2000. She has led a distinguished career and has earned the respect and admiration of those who know her record best – including 15 past presidents of the State Bar of Texas and three former Democratic Justices on the Texas Supreme Court. The American Bar Association unanimously rated her “well-qualified” – its highest possible rating.
- Early this afternoon, by a bipartisan margin of 81 to 18, the U.S. Senate cleared the way for a final vote on Justice Owen’s confirmation.
- The Senate has a constitutional responsibility to consider judicial nominees promptly, to discuss and debate their qualifications on the Senate floor, and then vote up or down on their nominations. Nominees like Justice Owen enjoy majority support on the Senate floor, and I am pleased that my other nominees will also get the up-or-down votes they deserve.

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