

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Steve King (R-IA) today made the following statement regarding Senate confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court.

“It is too bad Judge Sotomayor’s confirmation hearings and the public dialog about her nomination centered on race and gender rather than jurisprudence. To those who see her confirmation as a triumph of race and gender, I say first ‘congratulations’ if you are now inspired to self-motivation and if you dedicate yourselves to individual achievement based on merit rather than race, ethnicity or gender.”

“If you achieve excellence in anything you decide to do, you will create opportunities for yourselves and inspiration for others. The excellence of Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball in 1947 and made him MVP only two years later. No barriers exist today that compare with those Robinson faced. And no barriers exist today that cannot be overcome simply by achieving excellence. God Bless America for how far we have come! Every American has the opportunity to triumph over every actual or perceived barrier.

“Sadly, it is clear that the jurisprudence of Judge Sonia Sotomayor is not the only qualification that placed her on the Supreme Court. It is also clear that her judicial activism was a requirement rather than a disqualifier. Judicial activism effectively amends the Constitution. The very last nine people on the planet who should be amending the Constitution are Supreme Court Justices. I will watch her decisions carefully, encourage her to adhere to the Constitution and encourage her to reject de facto amendments to it and the unconstitutional preferences that were one of the qualifiers that President Obama used in her selection.”