

Holding Power Accountable

Common Cause Urges "Yes" Vote on Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act, HR 5720; Will "Score" Vote in our Democracy Scorecard

November 30, 2021

Dear Representative:

Federal judges are supposed to interpret the law, not put themselves above the law. However, more than 100 federal judges failed to recuse themselves in nearly 700 cases in which they had a financial stake over an eight-year period, according to an [investigation](#) by the Wall Street Journal.

Judges are supposed to be impartial arbiters of the law, and those accused of crimes, those prosecuting crimes, juries, and the public deserve to know if judges have conflicts of interest when considering certain cases. For far too long, many federal judges have owned investments and traded stock involving cases they consider. To curb this practice, the House of Representatives must pass the bipartisan Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act, HR 5720.

Common Cause urges a "yes" vote on HR 5720 and will "score" this vote in our next [Democracy Scorecard](#), which we send to our 1.5 million supporters and to press.

Americans deserve to know that they're getting a fair shake when they're in court. However, if we cannot know or see when judges might have conflicts of interest, then this gaping loophole in our federal legal system needs to be fixed to ensure justice. Applying the STOCK Act reporting requirements to the judicial branch is a common sense transparency reform to boost confidence in our courts. We strongly urge a "yes" vote on the Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act, HR 5720, and will "score" this vote in our next Democracy Scorecard.

Sincerely,



Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause