

Responses of Mark E. Walker
Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida
to the Written Questions of Senator Tom Coburn, M.D.

- 1. Some people refer to the Constitution as a “living” document that is constantly evolving as society interprets it. Do you agree with this perspective of constitutional interpretation?**

Response: No.

- a. If not, please explain.**

Response: The fundamental principles embedded in the Constitution are immutable.

- 2. Justice William Brennan once said: “Our Constitution was not intended to preserve a preexisting society but to make a new one, to put in place new principles that the prior political community had not sufficiently recognized.” Do you agree with him that constitutional interpretation today must take into account this supposed transformative purpose of the Constitution?**

Response: No.

- a. Please explain.**

Response: The fundamental principles embedded in the Constitution are immutable.

- 3. In Federalist Paper 45, James Madison wrote: “The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the Federal Government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State Governments are numerous and infinite.” Do you agree with Madison that the powers of the Congress are fundamentally limited?**

Response: Yes.

- 4. In your view, is it ever proper for judges to rely on foreign or international laws or decisions in determining the meaning of the Constitution?**

Response: No.

- a. If so, under what circumstances would you consider foreign law when interpreting the Constitution?**

Response: I would not rely on foreign or international laws in determining the meaning of the Constitution.