

# THE Skanner®

Challenging People to Shape  
a Better Future Now

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# Opinion

## THE SKANNER EDITORIAL:

# Alabama Voters Wise in Rejecting Moore

### Allegations of predatory behavior are troubling – and so is his resume

**O**n Tuesday Alabama voters chose one man to represent them in the US Senate. Their choice is between Democrat Doug Jones, a former US Attorney with a track record of supporting civil rights; and Republican Roy Moore, a former state judge with a track record of a very different sort.

Moore's opponents have highlighted allegations that while he was an assistant DA in his 30s he habitually harassed young women. Nine women spoke out and three say he sexually assaulted them, with his youngest accuser just 14 at the time. That's enough reason for Moore to stand down, but there are many more reasons why Moore is unfit to serve in Congress.

Moore is not just a Republican – he is one of the most extreme hard right voices in the party. Electing Moore would have been a vote against healthcare, against the social safety net and against civil rights.

In fact, Moore has said America was at its greatest during slavery, telling a rally in September:

"I think it was great at the time when families were united – even though we had slavery – they cared for one another.... Our families were strong, our country had a direction."

America certainly did have 'a direction' – the wrong one. But for Moore Black Americans simply don't count.

In the same speech Moore

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refers to Native Americans and Asian Americans as "reds and yellows".

Somebody should tell him that we are all human beings, not M & Ms.

Moore put his own extreme religious views before the constitution.

He was removed from his post as Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court for refusing to take down a monument to the Ten Commandments that he had put up in lobby of the Alabama Judicial Building. He opposes teaching our children about evolution and claims that "taking a knee" during the national anthem is against the law.

During President Obama's

**“America certainly did have ‘a direction’ – the wrong one. But for Moore Black Americans simply don't count**

term he was one of the most strident "birther" voices, repeatedly questioning Barack Obama's citizenship and even suggesting he was a secret Muslim.

He has also said that Muslims, like Rep Keith Ellison, should not be allowed to hold office.

Moore opposes equal rights for gays and lesbians and was suspended from the post after telling judges to continue the state ban on same sex mar-



U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore rides a horse to vote, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017, in Gallant, Ala. Alabama voters are deciding between Moore, former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court and Democrat Doug Jones.

riage even though it had been judged unconstitutional.

After the Sandy Hook massacre, Moore claimed the shootings were a punishment from God. In his twisted world view, a loving God would send

\$180,000 a year salary, (plus a bodyguard, healthcare and travel expenses) had failed to fully declare the \$1 million it paid him between 2007-2012. The foundation, which also accepted \$1,000 from a neo-Nazi group in 2005, promotes Moore's books, political views and speeches.

Roy Moore is a disgrace and electing him would have brought shame on the state of Alabama.

This election was close, but was a no-brainer for Democrats. Roy Moore is the worst of the worst.

For Republicans it didn't have to be difficult. Conscientious Republicans had the option of voting differently, and some – like Alabama Republican Senator – did vote their conscience.

In the end – with more than a little help from Black voters and grass-roots organizers – Jones won the day, and we're all better off for it.

## Don't Delay – Sign Up for Healthcare By Dec. 15

**T**he deadline to enroll or modify healthcare coverage under the Affordable Care Act is December 15. So, time is running out. Despite what you may have heard, the Affordable Care Act is still the law of the land, and everyone must have health insurance or pay a penalty. Go to [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) to find a plan that works for you. Don't delay, enroll today.

Congress enacted the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to ensure all Americans have access to affordable quality healthcare, which ought to be a basic human right. Since becoming law, the ACA has provided health insurance for more than 20 million people who did not have it before its passage.

When Congress was considering the Affordable Care Act, I spoke on the House floor and called the legislation the "Civil Rights Act of the 21st Century." I gave it that moni-



Rep. James E. Clyburn  
D-S.C.,  
Chairman,  
Dem. Faith Working Grp

ker, because the ACA outlaws discrimination against sick people and their families.

**“Access to high-quality healthcare should be a right for all**

It outlaws discrimination against women, closes the Medicare "donut hole" and allows adults up to age 26 to stay on their parents' policies. I strongly believe that access to affordable, high-quality healthcare should be a right for all, not a privilege solely

for the wealthy and well-connected.

Despite the current administration's ongoing attempts to undermine the law, sign-ups for 2018 have outpaced most expert predictions. To date, more than 2.5 million Americans have already chosen plans. This is a great showing and proves Americans want affordable health care. Discounts and subsidies are still in place and may be better than last year. In fact, 80 percent of healthcare.gov enrollees will be able to purchase a plan for \$75 or less per month.

As the Chairman of the Democratic Faith Working Group in the U.S. House of Representatives, I have been working with faith groups from across the country to spread the word and articulate the good work about the ACA. This outreach has engaged the faith community in promoting sign-ups during

this open enrollment period through our "Souls 2 Enroll" outreach effort and other engagement activities. We need to build on this record of success in the remaining days of Open Enrollment.

Time is running out for you to enroll in the Affordable Care Act. If you have questions or need help, there are many people willing to assist you. Go to the website, [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) or you may be able to find in-person help in your area at <https://localhelp.healthcare.gov/#/> to shop for plans and sign up. You can also call the marketplace call center at 1-800-318-2596. Don't be left without health insurance; get covered today.

U.S. House Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn represents South Carolina's 6th congressional district. In Congress, he serves as the Chair of the Democratic Faith Working Group. Follow him on Twitter at @Clyburn.