The checks and balances built into our Constitution have allowed our nation to stand strong for over 200 years. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has a pattern of trampling on this delicate Constitutional balance. I have frequently criticized the Bush Administration for ignoring the will of Congress and the courts. It is unacceptable that Bush's top aides are ignoring legally binding requests to testify before Congress.

There is evidence of politicization within the Department of Justice, and Congress had exercised its constitutionally mandated oversight responsibilities in requesting two of the President's top aides to testify before the House Judiciary Committee. The two aides, former White House Counsel Harriet Miers and White House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten, ignored the Congressional subpoena, forcing the House to issue a contempt citation to compel them to testify. The Department of Justice refused to refer the citation to a grand jury, despite its duty to do so.

The House of Representatives authorized the House Judiciary Committee to bring a lawsuit against Miers and Bolten for their blatant disregard of subpoenas to testify before Congress, and a civil suit was filed on Monday .

The Speaker of the House noted the non-partisan nature of the lawsuit :

Seventeen Republican Members of the House Judiciary Committee stated in their minority report that an alternative to the contempt citation issued by the House and rejected by the Attorney General is 'bringing an enforcement action under the federal question jurisdiction already conferred on the district courts.' Today's lawsuit follows that alternative.

Congress cannot stand by as the Bush Administration disregards the Constitution. Nearly a dozen Justice Department officials have resigned since evidence in this investigation was made public, and I have faith that Congress can work with the courts to restore the proper balance between our branches of government.