

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD ANNOUNCES REINTRODUCTION OF SUNSHINE IN THE COURTROOM ACT BILL ALLOWS MEDIA COVERAGE OF COURTROOM PROCEEDINGS

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO), Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) announced today the reintroduction of the Sunshine in the Courtroom Act, a bill Allard originally cosponsored in the 107th Congress. The purpose of this bill is to grant federal judges discretionary authority to allow media coverage-including television cameras-of federal court proceedings with appropriate safeguards. The bill will allow the public to become better informed about the federal judicial process and fill an obvious public need for access to court proceedings.

“This bill will offer the public better access to court proceedings by allowing the court to utilize various electronic means of media distribution,” said Allard. “It is important to point out that this bill does not require federal courts to allow camera access but rather gives them the discretion to do so,” added Allard.

All 50 states currently allow some form of audio/video coverage of court proceedings under a variety of rules and conditions. This proposed legislation gives the Judicial Conference the authority to issue guidelines on management and administration of media coverage and will be subject to a 3-year sunset provision.

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