

December 5, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Diane G. Feinstein
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

The signers of this letter served in the Department of Justice in the positions listed next to their names and, in connection with that service, came to know Senator Jeff Sessions through his oversight of the Department as a member of the Judiciary Committee or in his work as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama. All of us worked with him; several of us testified before him during his service on your Committee. All of us know him as a person of honesty and integrity, who has held himself to the highest ethical standards throughout his career, and is guided always by a deep and abiding sense of duty to this nation and its founding charter.

Based on our collective and extensive experience, we also know him to be a person of unwavering dedication to the mission of the Department—to assure that our country is governed by the fair and even-handed rule of law. For example, Senator Sessions has been intimately involved in assuring that even as the Department combats the scourge of illegal drugs, the penalties imposed on defendants do not unfairly impact minority communities. He has worked diligently to empower the Department to do its part in defending the nation against those intent on destroying our way of life, adhering throughout to bedrock legal principles and common sense.

Senator Sessions' career as a federal prosecutor also has provided him with the necessary institutional knowledge, expertise, and deep familiarity with the issues that confront the Department, insofar as it is an army in the field. As the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, Senator Sessions worked hard to protect vulnerable victims, particularly children. He carried this commitment to the Senate, where he championed legislation to provide the Department with the tools it needs to fight online child pornography, to close rogue internet pharmacies that have contributed to the opioid epidemic, and to end sexual assault in prison.

Senator Sessions' career, both as a United States Attorney and as a Senator, well prepares him for the role of Attorney General. In sum, Senator Sessions is superbly qualified by temperament,

intellect, and experience, to serve as this nation's chief law enforcement officer. We urge his swift confirmation.

Sincerely,

John D. Ashcroft
Attorney General, 2001-2005

William P. Barr
Attorney General, 1991-1993
Deputy Attorney General, 1990-91

Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General, 2005-2007

Edwin Meese, III
Attorney General, 1985-1988

Michael B. Mukasey
Attorney General, 2007-2009

Mark R. Filip
Deputy Attorney General 2008-2009

Craig S. Morford
Deputy Attorney General, 2007-2008 (Acting)

Paul J. McNulty
Deputy Attorney General 2006-2007

George J. Terwilliger III
Deputy Attorney General 1991-1993

Larry D. Thompson
Deputy Attorney General, 2001-2003

CC: Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510