



“Caring for Our Youth®.....since 1975”

March 21, 2022

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Washington, DC 20510

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Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

Since 1975, the National Organization of Concerned Black Men, Inc., (CBM) has been transforming lives by providing experiences to marginalized youth and their families in the hopes of bettering their futures. Founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by five police officers answering the call of Black mothers concerned about youth succumbing to gang violence CBM has impacted the lives of more than 15,000 youth and adults and has grown into a national organization with 33 chapters across the United States and South Africa.

With this in mind, and with the enthusiastic support of more than 15,000 members, I write in enthusiastic support of President Biden’s nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the United States Supreme Court. Based on our review of her judicial record, we believe that Judge Jackson has demonstrated an understanding of the thoughtful practice and adjudication of the law and its disproportionate importance to Black men, boys and marginalized people—and a steadfast commitment to fair, thorough adjudication of their legal claims. We believe she will be a worthy successor to the retiring Justice Stephen G. Breyer.

The nomination of a Black woman to our nation’s highest court is long overdue. In the 232-year history of the Supreme Court, this is a monumental first. Consequently, CBM wholeheartedly commend Judge Jackson’s record as a thorough and thoughtful jurist who has repeatedly engaged in the application of the facts to the law in the cases before her. There is much to celebrate in Judge Jackson’s nomination to the Supreme Court.



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As the first former public defender ever to serve, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson will bring her background, her perspective, and her lived experiences as a Black woman to the Court. This is an incredibly valuable perspective given the structural racism and discrimination that underlie and disproportionately effects Black men and boys at every stage of the criminal legal system. She is the ideal candidate for this moment and this Court. She is the ideal candidate for this moment and this Court.

Further, and on a personal note, Judge Jackson's nomination is also a point of personal privilege, as a college junior from a little-known city in New Jersey, I was selected as the first Black intern for former Senator Bill Bradley. In this capacity, I was tasked to write a statement on behalf of Senator Bradley in support of the first woman nominated to serve on the Supreme Court, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The statement made it verbatim into the Congressional Record and is still a source of youthful pride. Fast forward to now offer a letter of support to the first Black woman nominee to the United States Supreme Court is a uniquely joyful full circle experience.

Thank you for your leadership on Judge Jackson's nomination. Based on her judicial record and other professional experience, we strongly urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to confirm Judge Jackson for the Supreme Court. Should you have questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen McRae
CBM National President & CEO

KMR/ks