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The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Incoming Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 9, 2023

Dear Senators Durbin, Grassley and Graham,

I am writing to you in support of Judge Robert Kirsch for his nomination to be a United States District Court Judge.

My name is Deandre Weathersby. This is probably not a typical letter that you receive. I am not a lawyer, or a judge. I'm 28 years-old and I would like to tell you about the Robert that I know.

I grew up in Chicago, after high school I attended Knox college where I earned my Bachelor of Science and majored in Environmental Science. During the summers instead of going back to Chicago I spent my summers at a camp on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire. It was an escape from the violence of the inner city of Chicago. I lost two brothers, one to gun violence, one to a heart attack. They were both in their mid-twenties and I wanted to make sure I would have a life after my 20's.

During summers at camp I got close to a few of the kids and one in particular who spoke to me about what we wanted out of life, and that was Jackson Kirsch. The summer after my graduation from college, Jackson was visiting the camp and I mentioned to Jackson how I wanted to build a life away from my home.

Jackson, being his dad's son, mentioned "My dad could help". I didn't know Robert but when Jackson said that to me, I wasn't sure if it was actually possible for many reasons. Later that day Jackson handed me his phone and said "speak to my dad". Robert didn't know who I was but he was very welcoming. That was the start of our relationship and our bond. He believes in his

son's judgement so much that he would even take into consideration opening his home to a stranger. We spoke in August, 2017 by November, I was moving in.

In February 2018 I started work at the NJDEP as an environmental specialist trainee and currently am there as a specialist.

I have Robert in my corner, he has offered me personal growth and career advice not in the way most people would. He has led by example - with family, how to treat your family even the family that you weren't born with. How to cater to relationships with people whether at work or from your personal life. Robert took me under his wing as more than as a son and more than a mentee but in every aspect of my life.

After opening his home to me, it was clear he wanted the best for me in everything I was involved in, work, social, career, financial guidance, and wanted me to have a good life. To me Robert is not the kind of person to dictate and delegate, he has taken me to do things as a family such as going to the salvation army to donate our time and when he tells us stories, I saw the joy in his eyes. That for me, was my realization that this man is more than just a father, more than just a judge and more than a pillar to the community, he is an all around outstanding human being. Robert doesn't do the things he does for others to boost his own ego but he does it to affect the outcome of the person's life, that was the real prize, not for being noticed for helping out. His real gift comes from wanting the people around him to succeed and make the best out of what is in front of them.

I lived with Robert and the Kirsch family for two and a half years and I never once felt like an outsider. He doesn't know it yet but I am planning on moving back in.

Sincerely,

Deandre Weathersby