

**Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy  
Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting  
June 4, 2020**

Justin Walker just turned 38 years old. He has served as a judge for just seven months. He has not presided over a single case – not even one – to verdict or judgment. Yet President Trump nominated him to the D.C. Circuit Court, often described as the second highest court in the country.

What is worse is what motivated Walker’s nomination in the first place. Everyone in this room knows Walker has no interest in calling balls and strikes. He is committed to delivering partisan wins for the Republican Party. He is openly and vehemently opposed to the Affordable Care Act. He has dangerously suggested that the FBI Director – whom we provide with a ten year term to avoid politicization – “must think of himself as an agent of the President.”

Even if we ignore his many hyper-partisan writings and cable news appearances before he became a district court judge last fall, we know that Walker does not leave politics at the door when putting on his robes. Even his judicial investiture ceremony could have been a lead-in for a Trump campaign rally.

The damage we are doing to our judiciary by advancing a nominee like Walker is extraordinary, and this Committee ought to consider that before putting another rubberstamp on another one of President Trump’s young, partisan ideologues for a lifetime judicial appointment. I will vote “no” on Walker.

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