

January 10, 2017

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
U.S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We write to express our deep concerns about the record of President-elect Trump's nominee for Attorney General of the United States, Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL). We urge a thorough vetting of Senator Sessions' policy positions, especially those that we believe will be detrimental to the country's progress towards becoming more inclusive and our cities' efforts to create strong and safe communities.

Diversity is rapidly increasing in our cities, in part, due to immigration. We believe this growth and integration in our communities promotes a more vibrant economy and life for all our citizens. However, with changing demographics, we must also work to promote and encourage trust between the public and law enforcement. Senator Sessions' legislative record lacks a commitment to these goals, and to upholding civil rights for all. And, as a result, we question whether Senator Sessions can fairly lead an agency charged with protecting the constitutional and civil rights of rights of all Americans.

Senator Sessions has consistently opposed bipartisan efforts to reform our immigration policies despite his consistent criticism of the status quo. Moreover, he opposes any path to citizenship for people illegally brought to the U.S. as children by their parents, known as Dreamers. Additionally, Senator Sessions has also aligned himself with several anti-immigration groups, such as NumbersUSA.

Given Senator Sessions' history and the critical issues under the Department of Justice's jurisdiction, we believe that Senator Sessions is unable to fairly enforce our nation's laws and will not work to advance justice and equality. We encourage you to oppose Senator Sessions nomination to serve as Attorney General of the United States.

Sincerely,

Mayor Edward B. Murray
Seattle, Washington

Mayor Edwin Lee
San Francisco, CA

Mayor Betsy Hodges
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Mayor Sly James
Kansas City, Missouri

Mayor Bill Bell
Durham, North Carolina

Mayor Toni Harp
New Haven, Connecticut

Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.
North Chicago, Illinois

Mayor McKinley Price
Newport News, Virginia

Mayor William Johnson
Holly Hill, South Carolina

Mayor Mario Avery
Fairburn, Georgia

Mayor Jacqueline Goodall
Forest Heights, Maryland

Mayor Harold Thompson
Union, South Carolina

Mayor Beverly Young
Village of Vandalia, Michigan

Mayor Wayne M. Messam
Miramar, Florida