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January 7, 2017

Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support of Senator Jeff Sessions Nomination**

Dear Chairmen, Ranking Member and Committee Members,

As a point of reference I was the prevailing lead plaintiff in the landmark Supreme Court Case *Ricci v. DeStefano*. In that capacity I have testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee at the conformation hearings regarding Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor's nomination as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. I am a noted author and I have lectured at the Reagan Library. I currently serve as a Contributing Editor for Fire Engineering Magazine and the Union President of New Haven Connecticut Fire Fighters. I have appeared in a PBS series on the U.S. Constitution and I have served as an expert witness in court cases concerning fire strategy and tactics, hazardous material emergencies and promotional practices.

This is the third time I have provided written testimony before your Honorable Committee. The last time I testified I supported President Obama's nomination of United States District Judge Victor A. Bolden. Judge Bolden represented the City of New Haven in *Ricci v. DeStefano*. Despite being adversaries I did not draw unfair conclusions based off political differences and conjecture, I evaluated the totality of Judge Bolden's record and my personal interactions with him. Judge Bolden is honorable and demonstrated a fidelity to the law. He is a consummate professional who serves with integrity. These are the same qualities demonstrated by Senator Jeff Sessions.

Honorable Charles E. Grassley

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I am confident that as Attorney General, Senator Jeff Sessions will serve with distinction and he will place the law above all else. Senator Sessions understands that he must uphold the law and ensure our Constitution is followed. He knows, and through his actions has demonstrated, that civil rights are for all Americans and that the cost of our democracy is vigilance.

I am disheartened to see the baseless political attacks on Senator Sessions concerning civil rights. I have, and continue, to experience these kinds of attacks since prevailing at the United States Supreme Court. To hear individuals and associations claim racism and racial insensitivity in an attempt to discredit his distinguished record of public service is disingenuous. The mere inference, without hard proof, that he would deprive an individual of their rights based off race is reprehensible.

When racism exists it should be rooted out, however, labeling a man because some disagree with his politics only serves to downplay the serious nature of that claim. Individuals and associations crying wolf, after relying on conjecture and feelings undermines our political process. President John Adams captured this sentiment best when he was defending British Soldiers as an attorney before the Revolution by stating, "Facts are stubborn things." Merit must transcend partisan race politics. Race politics and personal attacks only serve to distract and silence those who disagree with their political positions.

I believe that Senator Jeff Session will be a credit to America. He is a principled man who believes in the promises contained in The Declaration of Independence and the sacrifice of our Civil War. He will stand for all Americans as the top law enforcement official for the United States of America. He comes to this position with vast experience and credentials. It is an honor to offer my support for his nomination to the position of Attorney General of the United States of America.

Sincerely,

*Frank Ricci*

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