

January 9, 2017

Senator Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Concerns over Senator Sessions' Confirmation Hearing Due to his Incomplete Questionnaire Responses

Dear Senator Grassley:

On behalf of the undersigned affinity bar associations, we write to express our deep concerns over the confirmation process for Senator Jeff Sessions' nomination to be the next Attorney General of the United States. It has come to our attention that Senator Sessions has failed to [adequately respond](#) to the standard Senate Judiciary Questionnaire (SJQ) in preparation for his scheduled hearing on January 10-11, 2016.

We strongly urge you to seriously consider delaying the confirmation hearing until Senator Sessions has sufficiently answered all the requests in the Senate Judiciary Questionnaire. Civil rights organizations and Senators on your Committee have pointed out that despite providing a supplement to his SJQ on December 23, 2016, Senator Sessions continues to omit important information about his record in elected and appointed office, including:

- Information on media interviews conducted, op-eds published, and speeches given during his time as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama (1981-1993), Attorney General of Alabama (1995-1997), and his first term as U.S. Senator (1997-2002)
- Information on any candidate questionnaires he may have completed for third parties during any of his elections
- Information on awards he has received from outside organizations

It appears Senator Sessions is unwilling or unable to make a comprehensive effort and provide a completed questionnaire to the committee. As organizations that represent the interests of a diverse group of attorneys, we are incredibly troubled by what appears to be a lack of transparency to this process on the part of the candidate. Moreover, we are concerned about the short time allotted for these hearings. If we consider that Mr. Sessions' 1986 confirmation hearings lasted four days, allotting half that time for a review of an additional thirty years' worth of records and experience seems grossly inadequate.

There is precedent during your chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee for delaying a confirmation hearing because of concerns over an incomplete record. In January 2015, your committee delayed the hearing date for Attorney General nominee Loretta Lynch until you had acquired complete information from Ms. Lynch. Although she had submitted her SJQ on December 1, 2014, more than a month passed before Ms. Lynch's confirmation hearing was scheduled and finally held on Jan 28-29, 2014. Even after your Committee voted to move forward on her nomination, her final Senate confirmation vote was delayed for several months, until she was finally confirmed on April 23.

Given the recent history of delays with Attorney General Lynch's nomination, we urge you to avoid the appearance of a double standard and heed the calls of members of your own

Committee to give them sufficient time to review Senator Sessions' extensive record, once completed.

We share your desire to have a full and fair hearing of Senator Sessions' record as you weigh his qualifications to be the nation's chief law enforcement officer. A delay of his January 10 confirmation hearing would signal that you are committed to such a process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



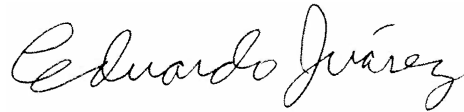
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