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May 6, 2013

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chair Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Judge William H. Pryor Nomination

Dear Chairman Leahy,

As a life-long Democrat, it is my privilege to offer my strongest endorsement to the President's nomination of Judge Bill Pryor for Commissioner of the United States Sentencing Commission.

As an active Democrat, I have worked on both the national and state level to improve my party, its candidates and its positions on many important issues. In 1996, I was one of only two Alabamians appointed to work with President Clinton and his representatives as a member of the National Democratic Party Platform Committee. I was also asked to Chair the Alabama Democratic Party Platform Committee and helped to write our state's first Party platform. My fondest memories as a Democrat are working closely with "the Judge", Senator Heflin, who, I know was a member of this distinguished Committee.

Despite some of our political differences, Judge Pryor and I worked together, while Judge Pryor was Alabama's Attorney General. As leaders of the Alabama Children First Foundation we worked together for the common purpose of improving the lives of our state's children and juveniles. We were highly successful, especially in our efforts to reform the Alabama Juvenile Justice System.

Within a few short years, largely as a result of General Pryor's willingness to propose and support common sense, even though not always popular, reforms, we are now seeing results. For example, the number of juveniles incarcerated by the Department of Youth Services between 2006 and 2010 decreased 44% and in 2009, serious juvenile crime declined by 9% statewide.

As a very popular Republican, in a very conservative state, Bill Pryor also had the vision and the political courage to speak out against the highly popular "Three strikes and you are out"

law which was resulting in the continued packing of our already overcrowded prisons with non-violent offenders. As Attorney General, Bill Pryor also worked to reform Alabama's criminal justice system, with primary emphasis on establishing truth-in-sentencing and eliminating unwarranted sentencing disparity. His work led to the permanent creation of the Alabama Sentencing Commission which continues to work to establish and maintain an effective, fair, and efficient sentencing system for Alabama.

In summary, as an active Democrat, I have worked with Judge Pryor firsthand, and watched his non-partisan approach and willingness to work with leaders of both political parties to seriously address the issues of Sentencing Reform. I wholeheartedly endorse Bill Pryor for this very important position and fully expect that his experience will quickly enable him to have a positive impact on the United States Sentencing Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John Hall

John C. Hall