

May 30, 2025

The Honorable Charles Grassley Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate 135 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate 711 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter of support for Joshua Divine's nomination to the United States District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write as members of the Missouri Senate to express our strong support for the nomination of Joshua Divine to serve as a United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri. As elected representatives, we have observed Josh's exceptional service as Solicitor General and his commitment to defending Missouri's laws. His outstanding legal abilities and dedication to the rule of law make him supremely qualified for the federal bench.

Josh has ably defended Missouri's laws with distinction and success. Since January 2023, Josh has served as Missouri's chief appellate advocate, successfully defending our state's interests in complex constitutional litigation. His track record of victories demonstrates his exceptional legal acumen and ability to translate the will of Missouri's people into persuasive legal arguments before state and federal courts.

Josh's leadership in *Noe v. Parson* exemplifies his skill in defending Missouri's commitment to protecting children. When we enacted legislation prohibiting genderaffirming medical procedures for minors, Josh was the only solicitor general in the nation to successfully defend such legislation at the trial court level, securing a complete victory. His preparation, legal arguments, and courtroom advocacy proved his ability to handle complex constitutional questions with legal precision and appropriate judicial temperament.

Josh's successful challenge to President Biden's student loan forgiveness program in *Missouri v. Biden* protected Missouri taxpayers and defended constitutional principles. Josh recognized the threat posed by the federal government's attempt to unilaterally forgive hundreds of billions in student debt.

Josh's work defeating the federal Title IX rule that would have allowed biological males to compete in women's sports shows his commitment to protecting opportunities for Missouri's female athletes. Josh understood that the federal government's reinterpretation of Title IX threatened protections for women and girls in athletics. His successful legal challenge preserved the integrity of women's sports in Missouri and across the country.

Josh's exceptional qualifications, proven success, and commitment to the rule of law make him an ideal candidate for the federal judiciary. We are confident he will bring the same dedication and legal excellence to the federal bench that he has demonstrated throughout his career in public service. We respectfully urge the Committee to support Joshua Divine's nomination and advance his confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy O'Laughlin, President Pro Tem State Senator, District 18

Mick Schroer

State Senator, District 2

Mike Bernskoetter

State Senator, District 6

Rusty Black

Brad Hudson

State Senator, District 12

1201

State Senator, District 33

Trny Luetkemeyer, Majority Floor Leader State Senator, District 34

Mike Henderson

State Senator, District 3

Travis Fitzwater

State Senator, District 10

amie Burger

State Senator, District 27