



ADVANCING FAITH, FAMILY AND FREEDOM

March 16, 2017

Senator  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Family Research Council (FRC) and the hundreds of thousands of families we represent, I urge you to support the nomination of Tenth Circuit Judge Neil Gorsuch to serve as a Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States of America. Judge Gorsuch has a strong record on life and religious freedom, but most importantly, he's an originalist in the likes of the late Justice Antonin Scalia, who Gorsuch will replace on the High Court.

Judge Gorsuch wrote a book in 2006 called *The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia*. In Gorsuch's book, he says human life is "intrinsically valuable and that intentional killing is always wrong." While Judge Gorsuch has not ruled directly on the constitutionality of abortion, principles regarding the value of life and its intentional taking apply from the moment of conception to natural death. In addition, Judge Gorsuch did rule at the Tenth Circuit in the abortion-related cases of *Hobby Lobby v. Sebelius* and *Little Sisters v. Burwell*. While these cases were religious liberty-focused, Judge Gorsuch found in both cases that requiring a person to provide drugs the person believes cause abortion is a substantial burden on that person's sincerely held religious beliefs.

Judge Gorsuch has a very strong record on other religious freedom cases as well. In *Yellowbear v. Lampert*, Judge Gorsuch upheld the religious rights of a convicted murderer who sought to visit a sweat lodge for religious reasons through a Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) claim. He also dissented in a Tenth Circuit Establishment Clause case regarding the display of a Ten Commandments monument. The Supreme Court largely adopted his reasoning when overturning the Tenth Circuit to allow the monument on public grounds.

Judge Gorsuch is a textualist in the likes of Justice Scalia. He analyzes the text of a statute and constitutional provision, while ignoring his personal preferences in the adjudication of cases. Judge Gorsuch understands it is the role of the legislature to create law and of the judiciary to apply the law as it was constructed. Judge Gorsuch is a stellar choice for filling Justice Scalia's vacant seat. FRC supports the confirmation of Judge Gorsuch and urges your support as well.

Sincerely,

David Christensen

Vice President of Government Affairs