



January 26, 2015

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Charles Grassley, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
FAX (202) 224-6020

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
437 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
FAX (202) 224-3479

Re: *Nomination of Loretta E. Lynch to be Attorney General of the United States*

Dear Senators Grassley and Leahy:

On behalf of the National Women's Law Center (the "Center"), an organization that has worked since 1972 to advance and protect women's legal rights, we write in strong support of the nomination of Loretta E. Lynch to be Attorney General of the United States.

As the nation's chief law enforcement official, the Attorney General is responsible for enforcing federal laws, including laws of the utmost importance to women such as Title VII, Title IX, the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE), the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Fair Housing Act (FHA), as well as core constitutional protections. Consequently, the actions of the Attorney General have a serious impact on the legal rights and very futures of women across this country.

Ms. Lynch is exceptionally qualified for the position to which she has been nominated. She received undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard College and Harvard Law School. Her legal career demonstrates both breadth and depth of experience, comprising private practice, teaching, and government service. She worked as an associate at Cahill Gordon & Reindel, as a partner and Hogan & Hartson LLP (now Hogan Lovells), and taught as an adjunct professor of law at St. John's University School of Law. Ms. Lynch has twice served as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, the first African-American woman to serve in that position, and was most recently confirmed unanimously by the Senate in 2010.

In her current capacity as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Ms. Lynch has had experience with a wide range of legal issues, including the prosecution of terrorism,

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organized crime, public corruption, financial fraud and cybercrime. In addition, she has prosecuted civil rights violations, including by the police officers who assaulted Haitian immigrant Abner Louima, and hate crimes. She has also made combatting human trafficking a priority for her office, in the last ten years indicting over 55 defendants in sex trafficking cases, and rescuing over 110 victims—including over 20 minors – of this violent trade. She has built a reputation as a fair and even-handed prosecutor with exceptional dedication to the rule of law.

Ms. Lynch has held leadership positions within the Department of Justice, including membership on a committee of U.S. Attorneys who advise the Attorney General on matters of policy since 2010 (serving as chair of that committee since 2013). She also serves on the Department of Justice's Diversity Council, a group dedicated to ensuring that the Department of Justice recruits and retains a workforce that reflects—and is thus responsive to—the vast diversity across America. In addition, Ms. Lynch has served as a member of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and of several non-profit organizations, including the Legal Aid Society of New York, the Federal Defenders Service of New York, and the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA). She also served as Special Counsel to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania, and as a member of the New York State Commission on Public Integrity. These experiences further demonstrate her commitment to public service and will serve Ms. Lynch in good stead, if confirmed as the nation's chief law enforcement officer.

Although Ms. Lynch's extraordinary qualifications speak for themselves, a wide array of bipartisan current and former government officials, private sector representatives, and organizations support her nomination, including her former law partners, the general counsels of Estee Lauder and Alcoa, the Federal Bar Counsel Presidents, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement, the National District Attorneys Association, and former FBI Director Louis Freeh. We note that if confirmed, Loretta Lynch would be the first African American woman to serve as the Attorney General, an important milestone in the Department's history.

Ms. Lynch's legal expertise, breadth and depth of experience, and commitment to equal justice and the rule of law make her exceptionally qualified to serve as Attorney General. Consequently, the Center offers its strong support of Loretta E. Lynch to be Attorney General of the United States, and urges you to expeditiously approve her nomination so that she may begin the important work that awaits her. If you have questions or if we can be of assistance, please contact us at (202) 588-5180.

Sincerely,



Marcia Greenberger
Co-President



Nancy Duff Campbell
Co-President