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Angelo McClain, PhD, LCSW  
Chief Executive Officer

January 27, 2015

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman  
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

On behalf of our more than 135,000 members and 50 chapters in the United States, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) enthusiastically supports Loretta Lynch's nomination to succeed Eric Holder as the Attorney General of the United States.

Throughout NASW's 60 years of existence, it has been a champion of diversity, social justice, and civil and human rights. Therefore, it is important for us to point out that Ms. Lynch, who would be the first African American woman to serve as the Attorney General of the United States. In that NASW believes that bipartisan support of Ms. Lynch will send a strong message to America, it is gratifying that her sense of independence and conviction to uphold the laws of the United States has led to both Republicans and Democrats that have called for her confirmation as Attorney General.

However, perhaps the most important reason NASW supports her confirmation is because she has been unafraid to pursue prosecution for the rich and powerful that violates public trust. Her career is replete with prosecuting corrupt politicians in both parties, law enforcement officers who abuse their authorities and white collar criminals who break the laws in search of ill-gotten financial gains.

Beyond that point, Ms. Lynch has taken positions and pursued protections for those who are less able to fend themselves from abuse by the powerful. As the federal Prosecutor for the Eastern District of New York (which includes New York City), she aggressively sought the prosecution of:

- New York City Police Officers who viciously abused and sodomized Haitian immigrant Abner Louima which led to the conviction of his abusers;
- A major criminal ring that defrauded senior citizens and;
- The infamous Bernie Madoff who defrauded investors out of billions of dollars, where she was the lead prosecutor

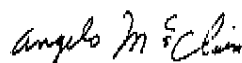
Ms. Lynch also had a major role in ending widespread discrimination in hiring practices of the New York City Fire Department. In 2014, she joined the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division negotiated a settlement with New York City that authorized compensation for African American fire department applicants who were discriminated against, and helped to develop a process where minorities could rise to management positions based on their experience and qualifications.

On the international human rights front, in 2005 Ms. Lynch was appointed to and served as a Special Counsel for the *International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda*. This appointment stemmed from her expertise, advocacy and case work in defending victims of genocide such as that seen in Rwanda, and credentials are outstanding. In her 30 year career, she has twice served as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. Additionally, she has worked as a partner at Hogan & Hartson, L.L.P., an adjunct professor at St. John's University School of Law, as the Eastern District's Chief of the Long Island Office, and as an assistant U.S. attorney. In all of these roles, she has been tough, fair, and effective.

As far as NASW is concerned, Ms. Lynch has the background needed to continue Attorney General Eric Holder's strong legacy of standing up for civil rights and ensuring equal justice for all Americans. We reemphasize that Ms. Lynch has been a leader in fostering diversity both in the legal world and in law enforcement. It is clear to us that she understands the importance of justice, and works tirelessly to achieve it for all Americans.

Ms. Lynch's background, experience and values are nearly exactly compatible to what NASW would expect from the chief law officer of the United States. Law enforcement and public safety are important to NASW. However, protection of our most vulnerable population from abuse, fraud, unequal justice is also important to NASW and its members. We think Ms. Lynch will execute her duties with those issues in mind.

Sincerely,



Angelo McClain, PhD, LICSW  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Association of Social Workers