

Nomination of Jeff Sessions to be Attorney General of the United States
Questions for the Record
Submitted January 17, 2017

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR TILLIS

1. At your hearing, I mentioned a report published in December of 2014 by the Government Accountability Office entitled, “Department of Justice Could Strengthen Procedures for Disciplining Its Attorneys.”¹ This report concluded that the Department of Justice had not appropriately addressed concerns regarding how it implements discipline for attorney professional misconduct. Will you commit to reviewing the report and reevaluating the procedures for addressing attorney professional misconduct?

RESPONSE: Yes.

2. Our immigration system needs reform. One issue that I am particularly concerned with is the backlog in our immigration courts. Under 8 U.S.C. § 1229a (b) (1), Congress gave immigration judges the authority during removal proceedings to sanction by penalty any action or inaction that is in contempt of the judge’s orders under regulations prescribed by the Attorney General. To my knowledge, the Attorney General has never promulgated these regulations. As Attorney General, will you evaluate whether giving immigration judges the authority to hold individuals in contempt will help improve efficiency and reduce the backlog in our immigration courts?

RESPONSE: Yes.

¹ <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-156>