

Dr. Molly Beth Malcolm
40 N. Interstate 35, #8C1
Austin, TX 78701

November 2, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Texas Supreme Court Justice Don R. Willett to the United States
Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I write in strong support of Justice Don Willett's nomination to the United States
Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

I am Executive Vice President of Campus Operations and Public Affairs for
Austin Community College District and a former public school teacher and counselor.
Years ago, I was Chair of the Texas Democratic Party, the first woman to hold that office
and a member of the Democratic National Committee, including its executive committee.

I met Don more than a decade ago when we were Directors of Texas Lyceum, a
diverse, nonpartisan group of Texas leaders committed to thoughtful dialogue about the
persistent policy challenges facing Texas. We still serve together on the Lyceum's
Advisory Council.

Why do I support Don's nomination? After all, President Trump was not my
preferred presidential candidate and Don and I certainly do not agree on some issues. But
Don is a decent, kind, smart, and open-minded person. He goes out of his way to cultivate
respectful friendships across the political aisle. In short, Don is a statesman, a throwback
to a time when civic discussions could be high-minded.

Don is an exemplary public servant, and he has given back in private ways, too, particularly through nonprofit board service benefiting our most vulnerable neighbors: those harmed by sexual assault and domestic violence, and low-income families needing access to high-quality preschool. He instills that same ethic of compassion in his children, volunteering frequently with them at various charities benefiting the homeless, single moms, and the elderly and disabled.

Today's political debate is shrill, tribal, and polarized. Don harkens back to a gentler age when public servants in both parties worked for the common good with full hearts and open minds.

I believe Don Willett is a fair judge and a good person. I was heartened by his nomination, and I urge his confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly Beth Malcolm". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and elegant.

Molly Beth Malcolm, Ed.D.