

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

November 22, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write in support of Julia Kobick's nomination to serve as District Judge on the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

The undersigned have all served as senior legal counsel within the executive department of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts during Governor Charlie Baker's term of office from 2015 to 2022. In that capacity, we have all worked in partnership with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to respond to major litigation affecting the Commonwealth. A number of us also previously served alongside Julie Kobick in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. We have all come to learn that when Julie takes on an important case, the Commonwealth will receive the most effective legal representation possible, the litigation will be conducted according to the highest possible professional and ethical standards, and we ourselves will learn something valuable about the law—quite possibly along with the court and the other parties. We are confident that Julie will make an excellent federal judge.

Julie is a brilliant lawyer, a first-class writer, and a dedicated public servant. With all of these strengths as an advocate, Julie is regularly assigned many of the most important and complex cases to come before the Attorney General's Office. To each of these matters, Julie brings the special kind of legal brilliance that simplifies rather than complicates difficult legal

questions. Her arguments are advocacy but also provide a clear roadmap and resource for the court to decide the case, with the result that she has been uncommonly successful in her work.

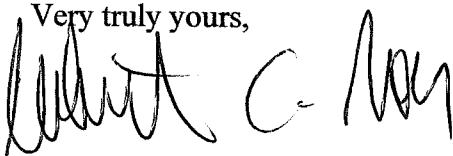
Julie has excellent judgment and operates with a strong and palpable sense of her larger responsibilities as a lawyer and a public servant. Accordingly, in formulating a legal strategy and providing advice to her client, Julie always considers more than just the stakes of the immediate case. She is exceptionally sensitive to the longer-term implications of the available legal arguments in any case, particularly given the Commonwealth's special position as a litigant. Put more simply, as a government lawyer and as a professional dedicated to justice through the law, Julie always grounds her advocacy and advice in a keen concern for advancing and defending the public good.

We know, based on long experience with her as clients, colleagues, and fellow lawyers, that Julie Kobick has the disposition, confidence, and experience necessary to handle both the legal decision-making and the human interactions that are part of the workload of a District Court judge. Many cases challenging government practices are effectively decided at the preliminary injunction stage, which requires quick analysis, fast brief writing, and clear and effective argument at the hearing, all on an expedited time frame. Julie's ability to operate successfully in these time-sensitive, highly contentious proceedings gives strong evidence of her ability to manage the work of a busy District Court.

Julie remains serene and measured even under considerable pressure. She is also a great listener. She is responsive, kind, and engaging in discussion and debate. Julie is consistently respectful to opposing counsel and to the court, and with all of her advantages, she conducts herself with the measure of respect and empathy for others that is itself a critical component to administering justice.

We encourage the Senate to quickly confirm Julie Kobick to the District Court.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a distinct "C" and "R" following.

Robert C. Ross
Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Baker
and former Assistant Attorney General

On my Own Behalf and On Behalf of:

Michael A. Kaneb
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Baker

Kirk G. Hanson
Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor Baker
and former Assistant Attorney General

John M. Stephan
General Counsel for the Executive Office of Administration and Finance
and former Assistant Attorney General

Sharon Boyle
General Counsel for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Margret R. Cooke
Commissioner of the Department of Public Health
and former Assistant Attorney General

Susan M. Terrey
Deputy Secretary for the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

Suleyken Walker
General Counsel for the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
and former Assistant Attorney General

Tori T. Kim
Assistant Secretary for the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
and former Assistant Attorney General

Benjamin Goldberger
General Counsel for the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs