



March 21, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

On behalf of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) equality representing more than 3 million members and supporters, we write to support the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States. In confirming a justice to lifetime service on our nation's highest court, Senators entrust that the justice will provide equal access to justice—blind of personal prejudice, bias, or self-interest. Justices must exhibit not only exceptional intellectual ability and distinguished legal experience, but also a demonstrated commitment to fairness and democracy. Judge Jackson has developed a professional record that displays her exceptional abilities and her devotion to these principles. These actions provide clear insight into her legal perspective and demonstrate a jurist with values and skills making her an excellent choice to serve our nation's people on the Supreme Court.

The nomination of Judge Jackson to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States marks a historic development for our country and the Court. In the 232 years since the Supreme Court was first established in post-revolutionary America, and the 115 justices that preceded her, not a single justice on the high court has included a Black woman. Nationally, while much work remains to address structural racism and broader barriers to equal protection, this nomination represents a significant step towards establishing judicial institutions that reflect—and do justice by—the people of the United States.

Judge Jackson's record on the bench and as a practicing attorney reveals significant and encouraging qualities that are relevant to the mission of the Human Rights Campaign and to the LGBTQ+ community. Her tenure on the federal judiciary and in government service evinces a deep commitment to defending the accused, advocating on behalf of marginalized communities, and protecting individual and constitutional rights. In key discrimination cases, her rulings demonstrate a keen appreciation of why government officials have a compelling interest in remedying discriminatory measures and legacies—and of how federal anti-discrimination statutes can apply to new technologies and situations. In the face of arbitrary and lawless actions by federal agencies, Judge Jackson maintained a steadfast commitment to the rule of law.

While Judge Jackson's docket has not touched directly upon issues of LGBTQ+ rights, in other public remarks she has highlighted the historical connections between LGBTQ+ rights and civil rights for other marginalized groups and rightly framed the *Obergefell* decision alongside Supreme Court precedents about constitutional protections involving privacy and interracial marriage. In addition, the unique depth and diversity of professional skills and experiences that Judge Jackson would bring to the Supreme Court as a former public defender, pro bono practitioner, and trial court judge each embodies a valuable perspective that is often missing from the highest court in the land. We encourage you to explore a more comprehensive review of Judge Jackson's record in the attached report issued by the Human Rights Campaign.

Even before confirmation hearings begin, we are pleased to see that Senate leadership on both sides of the aisle acknowledging that there is “no question” that Judge Jackson is qualified for the Supreme Court. The Human Rights Campaign determines that she has a strong record, both on and off the bench, for the core legal issues that impact our nation, including for LGBTQ+ people. Judge Jackson's integrity, intellectual ability and distinguished legal experience are exceptionable. The Senate has thrice confirmed Judge Jackson for other positions, including twice without objection by voice vote. Accordingly, we urge all Senators to vote yes for Judge Jackson's appointment to a seat on the Supreme Court of the United States.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact David Stacy, Government Affairs Director, at David.Stacy@hrc.org and Sarah Warbelow, Legal Director, at Sarah.Warbelow@hrc.org.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joni Madison", with a stylized, flowing script.

Sincerely,
Joni Madison