

# LEGAL AID AT WORK

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January 5, 2017

Chairman Chuck Grassley  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate

Ranking Member Diane Feinstein  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We write to express our strong opposition to the confirmation of Senator Jefferson B. Sessions as Attorney General of the United States. Legal Aid at Work is a nonprofit providing free legal services across California to low-income workers facing unlawful discrimination, unpaid wages and other injustices.

Given Senator Sessions' long and consistent record of hostility to civil and workers' rights, we believe he is unfit to serve as the nation's chief law enforcement officer. In 1986, a bipartisan majority of the Senate Judiciary Committee rejected him for a district court judgeship based on compelling evidence that he opposed civil rights enforcement, supported voter suppression tactics targeting African Americans, and had a history of making racially insensitive statements. Nothing in his record since then has demonstrated he has changed to become fit to serve as a fair arbiter of justice and protect the civil rights of all.

Senator Sessions has supported a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage and associated closely with white nationalist and hate groups regarding immigration policy. And he has accepted awards from organizations designated as anti-Muslim hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

He has consistently opposed:

- legislation to protect the rights of workers, including the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and measures to raise the minimum wage;
- protections for people with disabilities;
- repeal of the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy;

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- efforts to advance women's rights; and
  - investigations by the Department of Justice of law enforcement agencies accused of misconduct and civil rights violations; he has called consent decrees that mandate reform "an end run around the democratic process."

For these reasons, we believe Senator Sessions is unqualified to serve as Attorney General of the United States, and we urge you to oppose his confirmation.

Yours truly,



Joan Graff  
President  
Legal Aid At Work