

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR
OF MINNESOTA
UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

JUNE 4, 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I address the items on today's agenda, I would like to discuss recent events following the tragic and unjust death of George Floyd. Yesterday, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison announced that he upgraded the charges against the Minneapolis Police Department officer who murdered George Floyd and also announced charges against the other three officers. This is a necessary step toward justice for George Floyd and his family. Sweeping reform starts with accountability in this case, but it cannot end there, and I appreciate that the Committee will hold a hearing on these events later this month as we work toward needed systemic reforms to our justice system.

With respect to the items on today's agenda, I strongly oppose the motion to authorize subpoenas related to the Crossfire Hurricane investigation. I am disappointed that – at this critical time – this Committee is focusing on attempts to undermine the fact that Russia interfered in our election in a sweeping and systemic fashion, that their interference in ongoing, and that their efforts to influence the 2018 midterms were a “dress rehearsal” for the 2020 elections. We should instead be working together to take actions to stop this ongoing attack on our democracy.

Finally, I would like to express my opposition to Justin Walker's nomination to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. I am concerned that Judge Walker has been highly critical of the Affordable Care Act, which has provided access to health care for millions of Americans—access to health care that is particularly important during the coronavirus pandemic. He has also criticized longstanding Supreme Court precedents that courts should generally defer to reasonable interpretations of executive agencies when statutes are unclear, which would upend how courts review regulations that protect our drinking water and keep our workplaces safe. For these reasons, I cannot support his nomination.

Thank you.