

January 29, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for Vanita Gupta, as nominee for the United States Associate Attorney General

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write this letter in support of Vanita Gupta, the President's nominee to become the United States Associate Attorney General.

Ms. Gupta and I hold very different opinions about many issues. I myself am a lifelong Reagan Republican. I am the founder and President of Americans for Tax Reform, an organization that opposes tax increases as a matter of principle that works to limit the size and scope of government. I expect to have many arguments with the Biden Administration and probably even the Biden Department of Justice. But I have come to know and respect Ms. Gupta through our common work on criminal justice issues. I have found her to be strongly qualified, effective, principled, and driven by a desire to seek common purpose and consensus.

I first met Ms. Gupta through her work at the ACLU, where she led criminal justice reform work and pioneered a national campaign to change policies of over-incarceration, a cause I too support. We continued to stay in touch during her tenure leading the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division (working together to limit what amounts to the taxation of the poor through excessive fines and fees), and then later we worked together on the bipartisan Council on Criminal Justice, and found more common ground supporting the passage of the bipartisan First Step Act in 2018, which included sentencing reforms and prison reforms.

At every step, Ms. Gupta was an honest broker; someone with an ability not only to understand, but also appreciate, different perspectives. She was someone who sought consensus. While she and I certainly do not see eye to eye on many issues, she is nonetheless a leader who I trust will bring the same principled approach as the Associate Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice.

I urge the Judiciary Committee to quickly process Ms. Gupta's nomination, and similarly urge the Senate to confirm her.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Grover Norquist