

February 4, 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: Letter in Support of Vanita Gupta, nominee for Associate Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing in support of Vanita Gupta's nomination for Associate Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice.

Long before I served as Secretary of Homeland Security under President George W. Bush, I served in the Justice Department as a line prosecutor, and representing the United States in federal court was a tremendous honor, because it meant representing the people of the United States and pledging to uphold the Constitution. Later, when I served as a federal judge, I observed other Justice Department attorneys appear in my courtroom with a deep reverence for the rule of law and the Constitution.

Ms. Gupta is a lawyer's lawyer whom I have come to know through our work together on the National Task Force on Election Crises. She is someone with a deep reverence for the Constitution and the rule of law. Apart from the work we did together to protect the integrity of the 2020 election, I have also closely observed her take on weighty responsibilities throughout her career, such as leading diverse cross-partisan coalitions to tackle voting rights, constitutional policing, and criminal justice reform. She is a relentless advocate for fairness and the rule of law. While we may have disagreements from time to time on policy preferences, I firmly believe that she possesses the types of values, character, and competency that should be reflected in our nation's leaders.

I am grateful that there are leaders like her who will be serving this country. I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to swiftly process Ms. Gupta's nomination, and for the Senate to quickly confirm her.

Sincerely yours,



Michael Chertoff