



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

February 4, 2021

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

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

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

We write on behalf of the nation's mayors to urge the Senate to confirm Vanita Gupta as Associate Attorney General. The U.S. Conference of Mayors has worked closely with Ms. Gupta both as Acting Assistant Attorney General and as President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. She understands the key justice issues cities and their residents face and how to respond to them; she is a consensus builder who knows how to work effectively with people and organizations of differing viewpoints; and she will be an outstanding Associate Attorney General.

Our nation and our cities face multiple crises, and the Department of Justice has an integral role to play in shaping and carrying out our government's response to them. It is critical that Vanita Gupta, as well as other top Department leaders, be confirmed as quickly as possible so that we have true federal partners in our efforts to:

- **Reform Police Departments and Increase Racial Justice:** The aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd and others has reinforced the urgent need to renew the compact between people and the police, to build trust, accountability, and legitimacy, and to reimagine public safety in our country.
- **Dismantle Systemic Racism:** For too many years we have witnessed efforts to gut existing civil rights laws and reduce their enforcement. We have seen an increase in hate violence, xenophobic rhetoric, and discriminatory actions that target Muslims, Jews, African Americans, Latinos, and others.

- **Reform the Criminal Justice System:** We need a criminal justice system that is equitable, fair, and accountable for all.
- **Reduce Gun Violence:** In too many cities, homicides and other violent crimes continue to increase, especially during the pandemic. Firearms account for nearly 40,000 deaths a year and guns are readily available on our streets.
- **Prevent and Respond to Domestic Terrorism:** The nation faces an increasingly complex, and evolving, threat of terrorism and targeted violence and a growing threat from domestic actors inspired by violent extremism, evil forces that threatened our very democracy during the January 6 insurrection at the Capitol.

The Conference of Mayors has worked with Vanita Gupta on these issues and looks forward to continuing to do so with her as Associate Attorney General. The nation's mayors urge you to move her nomination quickly through Committee and then to the floor of the Senate.

Sincerely,



Greg Fischer
Mayor of Louisville
President



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director