

Sal Nuzzo

2801 Chancellorsville Drive/Tallahassee, Florida/32312

snuzzo@JamesMadison.org

(ph) 850.322.9941 / (tw) @SalNuzzo

February 2, 2021

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

Dear Chairman Durbin:

I write this letter to articulate my support of Kristen Clarke for confirmation as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

I write to you as a passionate constitutional conservative, with deeply held beliefs in the power of federalism, limited government, free markets, and equality of opportunity for all. I write to you as a public policy lead at The James Madison Institute – an economic research think tank that has promoted the principles of liberty since its founding in 1987. I write to you as a father of two daughters still hanging on to hope that the America they inherit is better than the one I inherited. And lastly, I write to you as a close friend of Kristen for more than 30 years, since we stepped foot on our high school campus in 1989.

Kristen and I came from entirely different backgrounds but forged a friendship that has stood the test of time and political winds. Over the years, we have had many occasions to engage one another in substantive dialogue and debate on current issues. We believe vastly different things about many of the elements of politics and policy. Nevertheless, there is one thing based on my experience that I can attest to – Kristen Clarke possesses the qualifications, character, and temperament that is sorely needed in public service at this time.

During his tenure as head of the American Enterprise Institute, Arthur Brooks (a mentor of mine), authored a book highlighting the fact that over time our atmosphere has devolved to the point that we now view our political opponents with contempt – and that we cannot hope to heal as a country until we stop this cycle. I subscribe to this belief, and it is my opinion through my experience that Kristen does as well.

In a day that seems long past, Presidents were given deference to select cabinet secretaries and make appointments aligning with their policy agenda, so long as individuals possessed the qualifications to serve. That is how this experiment in self-rule is supposed to go. Over the course of the past several administrations, it appears we only seem to remember that when “our side” is in a position of power. There are certainly policy issues Kristen and I have passionate disagreements over. Nevertheless, I encourage you to let this letter serve as the admonition of an individual committed and humble conservative – Kristen has the qualifications to serve in this critical role, and she possesses the acumen and discernment to see that our founders’ ideals are maintained.

Sincerely,



Sal Nuzzo
Vice President of Policy, The James Madison Institute
Choate Rosemary Hall '93