

October 9, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We see in Judge Amy Coney Barrett “a new kind of icon,” as the *New York Times* has put it, for women’s success in personal and professional life. An accomplished group of Christian women scholars who write and teach across a wide range of disciplines, we admire Judge Barrett for rising to the very top of her profession, on a path that her predecessor helped to pave. But more importantly, we respect her for giving public witness to a truth we all profess: A woman’s professional achievement need not and should not compromise her joy, generosity, and responsibility in raising a family. We urge you to confirm Judge Barrett as the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Judge Barrett is changing the face of feminism. Women’s equality has long been thought to mean delaying or giving up our singular contributions as wives and mothers, daughters, sisters, and mentors. As women of faith who see our families and children as gifts from God, and whose work flourishes when family comes first, we find in Judge Barrett a visible challenge to that consensus. A devout Catholic mother of seven children and a brilliant scholar and lawyer, Judge Barrett shows that women can be fully open to the responsibilities of family life while making significant contributions outside the home. We can go to our daughters and say, echoing the Judge’s praise of Justice Ginsburg: “This is the new ceiling. Here’s how to smash it.”

As the philosopher John Stuart Mill argued, popular ideas become nothing but “dead dogmas” if they are not vigorously debated. Judge Barrett’s life challenges the dead dogma that women must set aside the most important work of their lives to contribute in other ways.

We give our strongest support to Judge Barrett’s confirmation by the Senate.

Yours sincerely,

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