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April 28, 2021

Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to VOTE YES on Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Votes on this nomination may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 117th Congress.

Judge Jackson is an inspiration. She comes from a family of educators and is the product of our nation's public schools. As she puts it, "When I was growing up . . . I went to a very good public school that gave me a strong educational foundation." She is a graduate of Harvard University and Harvard Law School, was an editor of the Harvard Law Review, and clerked for three federal judges, including Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. She has briefed and argued federal appeals, managed complex litigation, defended indigent people accused of crimes, and worked to make sure federal criminal sentences were free from racial bias.

As a judge, she has meted out justice for all, vindicating the rights of those with disabilities,¹ immigrants,² employees (and educators in particular) who challenged racial and disability discrimination,³ and workers to form and join strong unions.⁴ Her judicial tenure has validated the Senate's previous unanimous confirmation of her to the federal bench, and her elevation to the U.S. Court of Appeals warrants the same support.

Judge Jackson's varied experiences—personal and professional—would bring badly needed diversity to the federal bench. As she put it, "I am only the second generation in my family to go to *any* college, and I am fairly certain that if you traced my family lineage back past my grandparents . . . you would find that my ancestors were slaves on both sides."

¹ See, e.g., *Pierce v. D.C.*, 128 F. Supp. 3d 250 (D.D.C. 2015).

² See, e.g., *Kiakombua v. Wolf*, No. 19-CV-1872 (KBJ), 2020 WL 6392824 (D.D.C. Oct. 31, 2020).

³ See, e.g., *Willis v. Gray*, No. 14-CV-1746 (KBJ), 2020 WL 805659 (D.D.C. Feb. 18, 2020).

⁴ See, e.g., *AFL-CIO v. NLRB*, 466 F. Supp. 3d 68 (D.D.C.), *order amended on reconsideration*, 471 F. Supp. 3d 228 (D.D.C. 2020).

We strongly urge you to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Egan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "E".

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association