

September 3, 2018

Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

My name is Louisa Garry. I am a high school teacher and coach so it is unusual for me to not be in the classroom on the first Friday after Labor Day. But I am honored to be here to voice my support of my college classmate and longtime friend.

I met Brett Kavanaugh in 1983, almost exactly 35 years ago today. We were both incoming freshmen at Yale. Brett was standing under a tent with his parents, waiting to depart for the freshman outdoor orientation. I grew up in a small town in Ohio and was accustomed to saying hello to everyone, so I walked up and introduced myself. Brett warmly received my greeting and thus began a friendship that continues to this day. Our enduring friendship might surprise some because in certain ways, we are quite different. I have been teaching and coaching high school students for the last 30 years while Brett pursued a high-profile career in law. Brett comes from a Catholic upbringing in a big city and tends to have a conservative outlook, while I would describe myself as a moderate Quaker who seeks out running trails and ocean beaches. Our differences have allowed us to learn from each other and see things from a different perspective. We have maintained a close friendship based on our mutual respect, support, and trust.

One of the things Brett and I do have in common is an appreciation for competitive sports. We both have daughters and we often talk about the benefits of youth sports in raising strong, independent, girls and women with confident voices. Brett and I not only watch a lot of sports, we also run together. We first started running together while Brett was in his first year of Yale Law School and I was working at Yale and training to compete in the 1988 U.S. Olympic Trials for track. Brett was not much of a runner, but he could keep up with me on an easy warm-up. After he ran his first 3 mile race, Brett announced that he wanted to run the Boston Marathon in his 3rd year of law school. He asked me to promise to train and run it with him and I agreed. Even though I was a competitive runner, I had never run anything close to a marathon in distance, but Brett's faith in my ability as a runner and coach gave me the confidence to take on this challenge. During the marathon, Brett waited for me through water stops and bathroom breaks just as I waited for him through leg cramps and blisters. We ran together, step for step for 26.2 miles and crossed the finish line at exactly the same time. We ran the Boston Marathon together, again step for step, two more times: in 2010, and most recently in 2015 in celebration of our 50th birthdays. Four hours is a long time to spend with someone as you physically and mentally struggle through the miles, but I was lucky to go through it with Brett, whose good humor, fortitude, and idealism elevates those around him.

Brett and I share an interest in the growth and development of young people. Many people have heard about Brett's basketball coaching expertise, but I believe even more students have benefitted from taking a class with Brett at Harvard, Yale or Georgetown. Brett is a bright, articulate and engaging educator and he is generous with the time and attention he devotes to mentoring others. In November, 2016, Brett welcomed juniors from my school to the Federal Court for a field trip to learn about the judicial system. As we prepared for the visit, my students wanted to know "Is Judge Kavanaugh conservative or liberal?" I responded that they should

wait and determine the answer on their own. Brett spent over an hour with my class explaining his role as judge, discussing current issues facing the Federal Court of Appeals, answering the students' questions and listening to their voices. He spoke passionately about his belief in the judicial system and the importance of the separation of powers in government. As we left the Federal Court, a couple of students immediately remarked, "We couldn't tell -is he conservative or liberal? Can you tell us?" I responded "That's how it's supposed to be. The judiciary is supposed to be independent."

Brett has a wide circle of friends of diverse political viewpoints and often shows a willingness to step into potentially uncomfortable forums with a spirit of collegiality. At our 30th Yale College reunion, Brett joined a panel on free speech. The panel broadly represented the diverse perspectives of our classmates and each of the panel members spoke respectfully about the challenges faced by universities in addressing issues of free speech. When discussing how to balance a wide range of opinions, Brett quoted the character Atticus Finch from the book "To Kill a Mockingbird" and emphasized how important it is to "stand in a person's shoes." Brett doesn't just speak words of empathy and tolerance; he listens and acts upon these words. His friends and colleagues describe him as a kind, thoughtful person and a good listener.

I leave it to others to speak to Brett's judicial record; I am here to speak to his outstanding personal qualities as a life-long friend. Brett Kavanaugh will be a voice of fairness and integrity as a Justice of the Supreme Court.

Thank you.