

January 27, 2015

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

The YWCA, the oldest and largest multicultural organization dedicated to the elimination of racism and empowerment of women, expresses support for the nomination of Loretta Lynch to the position of Attorney General of the United States.

Ms. Lynch is an exemplary candidate for consideration given her distinguished 30-year career in legal justice. She has worked in the public and private sectors as a United States Attorney, partner, prosecutor, general counsel and adjunct professor. Irrespective of titles, Ms. Lynch's sole objective has been to seek justice and uphold the law.

As the first woman of color to be appointed Attorney General, Ms. Lynch is uniquely qualified to head the Department of Justice. In recent months, the practice of racial profiling has tragically illustrated it is a serious problem in the United States. The aftermath of Ferguson, Missouri and Staten Island, New York demonstrate that the nation needs a leader who has experience in improving police relations in neighborhoods where mistrust and tensions are high. We believe that Ms. Lynch will help restore faith in our justice system by bringing together concerned members of local communities, law enforcement agencies, churches and civil rights organizations. The federal government's involvement is vital to repairing the trust between local communities and law enforcement. We are confident that Loretta Lynch as Attorney General would ensure that law enforcement agencies are held accountable to high standards, receive adequate training, and document racial profiling incidents.

While we are pleased that outgoing Attorney General Eric Holder has updated the Department of Justice's 2003 racial profiling guidance for federal law enforcement agencies, there is still more work to be done. The updated Guidance moves us closer to correcting patterns of systemic racial bias in policing and its negative and often lethal impact on various communities of color. However, in order for there to be lasting widespread reform and justice, it is imperative that the Guidance is further refined. We look forward to working with Ms. Lynch on the removal of exemptions for law enforcement activities related to screening airline passengers, patrolling our borders and ensuring that the Guidance is adopted by state and local law enforcement agencies.

The YWCA's commitment to eliminating racism and empowering women spans over 150 years and is one of the common threads that unites more than two million women and families served annually in over 1,200 locations across the country. In 2012, nearly 300,000 individuals participated in racial justice programs that addressed systemic barriers within the criminal justice system, housing, health care, and education industry. YWCAs offered trainings, hosted dialogues and developed private-public collaborations. In addition, we are the largest network of domestic violence shelter services around the country serving almost one million women and children annually. The YWCA is dedicated to promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

for every woman

We feel that Ms. Lynch is exceptionally qualified to lead our nation's top law enforcement agency as Attorney General. We are confident that her leadership will benefit all Americans. We urge the Senate to swiftly confirm Ms. Lynch and with broad bipartisan support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 835-2354 or [dhoffman@ywca.org](mailto:dhoffman@ywca.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Desirée Hoffman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Desirée Hoffman  
Director of Advocacy and Policy  
YWCA USA