

Mr. Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Feinstein, & Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am honored to be here today to address you in support of my friend and my child's favorite coach, the Honorable Brett Kavanaugh. My testimony today will not be from a legal perspective, but from a personal and parental perspective. Consider it more about the person than the nominee.

I have known Judge Kavanaugh for many years, but in recent years have seen him on a regular basis thanks to his position as the coach of the CYO girls 5th/6th grade basketball team at Blessed Sacrament School. In our house, he is not known as Judge Kavanaugh but as "Coach K." He was my daughter's coach for two years. Our first year, his daughter was in 4th grade & therefore ineligible for the team, and he still coached- in my book this alone qualifies him for sainthood. As a high school & college player, Coach K had the job prerequisite of basketball knowledge, however, more importantly he had the other necessary attributes of patience, fairness and diplomacy... and he had them in spades. Fairness with young players and opposing teams, patience with boisterous parents, diplomacy with referees who are on their 5th game of the day and making some questionable calls.

In the few hours a week of practices and games, much more than the fundamentals of basketball were taught. The major concepts of team work, hard work, commitment, setting and achieving goals, striving to be your best were all there. An enormous task to communicate to young girls in so little time. His calm demeanor got the message across, no yelling or gavel was necessary.

Of course, the Kavanaugh's contribution to our community extends beyond basketball. School auctions, food drives and service projects are abundant at Blessed Sacrament, they are always there to participate. This leads me to another personal perspective: Brett is relatable to everyday Americans. In the public eye, Supreme Court Justices are strictly cerebral, ethical, humble, courageous. He is all of these, however, I am one of the everyday Americans who sees him getting his children to practice, having four games a weekend, as a lector at Church, running on your high school track and socializing with friends. The general population can relate to this nominee.

As my Final Note today, I would like to read Coach Kavanaugh's "Final Note" to my daughter from his end of the season player evaluation. I share this with the utmost confidence that every player on the team received the same honest, appreciative, supportive, heartfelt and confidence building message.

It stated: "Thanks Mary Grace. You are an excellent athlete and were a great contributor to the team. We loved your spirit and attitude. We really enjoyed coaching you and wish you all the best. We look forward to having you on the team next year. Keep up your great spirit, attitude and work ethic and you will be a big success in all you do."

Kind of makes me want to go back to 5th grade basketball...

Thank you for the opportunity to share this personal perspective. As the great UCLA basketball coach John Wooden said "Young people need models, not critics." I think this "Final Note" says it all as to the model that Coach Kavanaugh has been to our children. I know the parents of his players feel as fortunate as I do that our girls had such a wonderful mentor. Through basketball he taught them the skills they will need not only for a season, but for a lifetime.