



March 16, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: In Support of Vanita Gupta, Nominee for Associate Attorney General

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing this letter in strong and unqualified support of Vanita Gupta, the President's nominee to serve as Associate Attorney General.

I am the President and Founder of the non-partisan Campaign Legal Center, which works to protect the right to vote for all Americans, regardless of political affiliation. I previously served as a Republican Commissioner and Chairman of the Federal Election Commission (FECC). In private practice I have also served as the General Counsel of Republican Presidential campaigns and represented a number of Republican candidates and committees.

Vanita Gupta is decidedly not a partisan person. She has never run for political office (as some previous Justice Department officials have) nor to my knowledge has she worked on a political campaign. To the contrary, she is someone who, in my personal experience, is driven by principles of fairness, equality and justice, and not by partisan ideology. I have had the good fortune to personally work with Ms. Gupta on numerous occasions to promote election integrity and voting rights, including on the National Task Force on Election Crises. At every turn, I closely observed Ms. Gupta's leadership, character and intellect, and consider her to be a lawyer of the highest order who is meticulous and motivated by a desire to get things right.

I realize, having observed moments of her confirmation hearing, that there are efforts by some to cast Ms. Gupta as a "partisan" who is driven by ideology. I find that characterization to be deeply unfair and belied by Ms. Gupta's longstanding history of working across partisan lines to promote equality and justice in our legal system. Indeed, from early on in her career when she worked to obtain pardons for dozens of her clients from then-Texas Governor Rick Perry in Tulia, Texas, to the decades of work that she has done on bipartisan criminal justice reform, to the years-long building of bridges between community leaders and law enforcement leaders, Ms. Gupta has been a tireless consensus builder. She brought the same bipartisan approach when working with me on addressing issues of disinformation on social media platforms.

The American people (whether Republican, Democrat, or neither) will be extremely fortunate to have Vanita Gupta serve in the leadership ranks of the Justice Department. I have no doubt that Ms. Gupta will pour her heart and soul into serving with the utmost integrity and upholding the rule of law. And I have every confidence that she will seek to enforce and defend the law in a way that is well-reasoned, balanced, and fair.

I urge your Committee to favorably advance her nomination to the full Senate, where I similarly urge your Senate colleagues to support her nomination to become Associate Attorney General.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trevor Potter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the top of the "P" in "Potter".

Trevor Potter
Republican former FEC Chairman and FEC Commissioner