

Nov. 20, 2016

Chairman Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein
Honorable Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Feinstein and Honorable Members:

I am writing to ask you to support the nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) as 84th Attorney General of the United States. Senator Sessions has served on the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary for 20 years, and has one of the strongest historical understandings of how the Department of Justice works, its jurisdiction, its challenges and issues to date. When I was working as a Senate counsel for the Judiciary Committee from 1996-1998 for Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ), Sen. Sessions was a junior member of the Judiciary Committee.

It would not be until 2013 I would have the honor of working with Sen. Sessions as a Special Counsel, and it is about that experience I wish to inform you. In short, it was an honor and privilege serving Sen. Sessions. I believe his deep experience, commitment to public service and the rule of law, honesty, fortitude, and willingness to stand for what he believes best serves the American people and institutions of government, make him an unparalleled candidate for Attorney General. These subsequent paragraphs will explain why.

When the Senate Judiciary Committee began consideration of the *Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 (S.744)*, Sen. Sessions and Sen. Grassley jointly requested I testify to the national and border security implications (Title I) of the bill based upon my extensive history of providing policy guidance on border, counterterrorism and identity security to Congress as a former 9/11 Commission counsel. Upon conclusion of that testimony in April 2013, Sen. Sessions asked that I join his staff temporarily as a Special Counsel during consideration of S. 744. I did so, and it is based on that 2013 experience that I write in support of the nomination of Sen. Sessions for Attorney General.

S. 744 was a colossal and complex bill, with 1,200 pages and over 270 sections, all implicating different facets of immigration law. Staff had less than two weeks for full review and analysis of the legislation prior to the beginning of the full Senate Judiciary markup. In addition to the actual bill itself, there were dozens of proposed amendments that also required analysis as well as proposed amendments by Sen. Sessions. As staff, we were hard pressed to provide all we needed to Sen. Sessions in a timely manner; there were to be no shortcuts nor political expediency.

The result was that Sen. Sessions became the spearhead for judicious, conscientious review of every single provision of the proposed bill. He required understanding of not only the language but the ramifications of sections of the provisions. Behind closed doors, there was no hint of political obstructionism, playing the party line, nor glossing over important details to make a political point. Instead, Sen. Sessions sought to understand simply (1) the proposed language; and (2) what the effect of that language would be on the American worker, on immigration law, and on national security. On a personal level, Sen. Sessions treated all his staff, and me, with the utmost kindness and respect. Sen. Sessions delved deep, he asked good questions, and he

required of his staff that they be objective and thorough in their responses. Sen. Sessions expected a lot from his staff, but only because he worked harder than we did.

I believe that Sen. Sessions is a truly honorable man who has only the public service of his country at heart, and has the experience and dedication to our justice system as few do today. Sen. Sessions has done everything it takes to be qualified for the position of Attorney General; he deserves your support.

Sincerely,



Janice L. Kephart

Former Counsel to Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ), Senate Judiciary Committee

Former Counsel, 9/11 Commission

Former Special Counsel to Sen. Jeff Sessions, Senate Judiciary Committee