

March 1, 2021

Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re.: Nomination of Vanita Gupta to be Associate Attorney General (PN79-4-117)

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

People of faith care deeply about civil rights and voting rights. Our diverse faith traditions teach us that human dignity is recognized and affirmed through participating in our democracy. This includes being counted in the Census and voting in elections. Ensuring fairness and equal representation in these political processes is a top priority for our organizations and our churches around the country.

President Biden's nominee for the position of associate attorney general, **Vanita Gupta**, upholds these same core principles of fairness, justice, and equal participation in politics. We write today to share our experience of Vanita Gupta's interaction with members of the faith community in Washington, D.C. We have worked with Ms. Gupta at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR) since 2017 and have found Ms. Gupta to be a thoughtful, creative and committed partner to us on the issues of civil and human rights.

In 2017, Ms Gupta sought out the faith community to collaborate on the 2020 Census. Her smart, saavy approach to inclusion was critical in getting many of our congregations involved in securing the count. In this more than two year project, faith communities were fully engaged and treated with respect and integrity.

A second area of collaboration has been ensuring the integrity of our elections. Ms. Gupta worked with the faith community to protect voter registration and voter turn out and ensure that all voters have what they need to successfully cast their ballot. Again Ms. Gupta was respectful, engaging, and understanding of the dynamics of our churches.

Based on our experience, Vanita Gupta is a respectful partner of the faith community and has been supportive of the values of fairness and participation that we hold.

Sincerely,

Rev. Ron Stief, Executive Director, National Religious Campaign Against Torture

Rev. Jimmie R. Hawkins, Associate Director of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Advocacy Offices

Martin Shupack, Director of Advocacy, Church World Service

R. Aura Kanegis, Director, Office of Public Policy and Advocacy, American Friends Service Committee

Diane Randall, General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, President, Unitarian Universalist Association

Josh Protas, Vice President of Public Policy, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

Ken Brooker Langston, Executive Director, Disciples Center for Public Witness (Disciples of Christ)

Amanda Tyler, Executive Director, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, Union for Reform Judaism

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Rabbi Hara Person, CEO, Central Conference of American Rabbis

Melanie Roth Gorelick, Senior Vice President of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

James Winkler, President National Council of Churches

Pablo DeJesus, Executive Director, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

Sandy Sorensen, Director, United Church of Christ Washington Office

Marie Dennis, Senior Advisor, Pax Christi International

Johnny Zokovitch, Executive Director, Pax Christi USA

Larry Couch, Director, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

Steve Schneck, Executive Director, Franciscan Action Network

Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary, General Board of Church and Society, The United Methodist Church