



March 9, 2017

Dear Senator Feinstein:

As philanthropists, business owners, investors, entrepreneurs, and others also concerned about the public interest, the undersigned members of Voices for Progress write to express our opposition to the confirmation of Judge Neil Gorsuch.

Supreme Court rulings can dramatically impact the lives and rights of all Americans. Judge Gorsuch's record on the bench, as well as his writings, speeches, and other activities, demonstrate he is a judge who aims to rule in ways that advance his ideological agenda, is outside the mainstream of legal thought and unwilling to accept the constructs of binding precedent when they dictate results he disfavors. If confirmed to the Supreme Court, which is closely divided on many critical issues, Judge Gorsuch would tip the balance to undermine many of our core rights and legal protections. He lacks the impartiality and independence the American people expect and deserve.

Now more than ever, we need open-minded, fair, and independent judges who will stand up for our Constitutional values and protections for everyone and serve as a check on President Trump when he violates the law or the Constitution.

After the nearly year-long blockade of Judge Merrick Garland, Democrats allowing this seat to be filled with a right-wing ideologue would be telling Republicans that they can always block Democratic nominees with impunity and wait for the next time they have a Republican in the White House. Furthermore, the way in which Pres. Trump politicized this appointment before the election, and the ideological litmus tests he promised to apply, vitiated the deference that normally should be extended to a judicial nominee.

Under these circumstances, Democrats responsibility to “*advise* and consent” requires that they thoroughly review Judge Gorsuch's record and judicial philosophy. Before the full Senate considers this nomination, the American people have a right to know how his appointment to the Supreme Court would impact their rights, freedoms, and liberties. When this review is complete, we encourage Senators to assure that Judge Gorsuch does not receive the 60 votes required to confirm a Supreme Court nominee, and insist that only a non-ideological nominee in the mainstream of American judicial philosophy will be confirmed.

Sincerely,

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