



The Reverend Raphael G. Warnock, Ph.D.  
*Senior Pastor*

March 20, 2015

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United State Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate  
437 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley & Ranking Member Leahy:

As a citizen of the Northern District of Georgia, I am delighted by the President's nomination of Sally Yates as Deputy Attorney General and I am honored to send this expression of my enthusiastic support for what I hope will be a speedy confirmation.

I know that I speak for many of my clergy colleagues and indeed people across the great State of Georgia and beyond when I say that Sally Yates is the consummate public servant, a real leader whose character, integrity and commitment to the common good is expressed not only in her words but embodied in her deeds. As a prosecutor, her record shows her to be an extremely competent enforcer of law and order, a fierce facilitator of public safety and national security. Yet, she understands that Martin Luther King Jr., the celebrated pastor of Ebenezer church, was right when he said that "peace is not merely the absence of tension but the presence of justice." Accordingly, Sally Yates has also embodied in her professional practice a genuine interest and commitment to civil rights, basic fairness and equal treatment under the law.

I saw that up close recently when she accompanied Attorney General Eric Holder to our church, as he came to speak at a Town Hall meeting, organized in the wake of the Michael Brown case in Ferguson, Missouri, the Eric Garner case in Staten Island, New York and the urgent national conversation that ensued. Ms. Yates stepped into our 2,000 seat sanctuary, packed to capacity, spilling over outside and brimming with the raw emotion, pain and disappointment of ordinary citizens - parents, students and young activists - many of whom have known personally the real consequences of lingering contradictions and unfinished business in America's trek toward a more perfect union.

Sally Yates appointed herself well that night in a tense situation, showing real empathy and appropriate sensitivity to context and experiences different from her own. She later said to me that while she felt she had a good sense of the experiences of African Americans and the criminal justice system, she "learned a lot" that night. I submit that, in large measure, it is this willingness to listen and learn that has made Sally Yates such a great public servant, highly regarded across the political and ideological spectrum. It is a trait that will serve her and our nation well in the office of Deputy Attorney General.

It is a basic premise of our great democracy that leaders cannot lead and govern without the consent and respect of the governed. Sally Yates earned that public trust in Georgia the old fashioned way, through hard work, compassionate regard for all, but especially for our most vulnerable citizens, and steady, unpretentious leadership. She will do the same in this new role. I trust and pray that the United States Senate will confirm her quickly and overwhelmingly. She is the right person at the right time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raphael G. Warnock", written over a light blue horizontal line.

The Rev. Dr. Raphael Gamaliel Warnock  
Senior Pastor

*"America's Freedom Church"*