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September 28, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Letter in Support of Charlotte Sweeney, nominee for U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write today in strong support for the nomination of Charlotte Sweeney to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado.

I first met Charlotte due to her distinguished career in private practice and leadership in the Colorado Plaintiff's Employment Law Association. She is a person of integrity and intellect, and her dedicated efforts toward ensuring equal pay in Colorado are exemplary. Charlotte's work in the colonias of Juarez, Mexico building homes for the most needy is equally laudable.

Many would say that our Missions Ministries partnership is unlikely. I am a lifelong member of the Church of Christ, a graduate of Lubbock Christian College, and I serve on the Lubbock Christian University's Board of Trustees. When Charlotte heard about the annual 'Rhodes to Relief' trip with Missions Ministries, she asked if she as a Lutheran could join the team. In that a basic tenet of the religious non-profit and Rhodes to Relief is to provide support to oppressed, exploited, and devalued Mexicans near the border in El Paso, Texas, I responded immediately and affirmatively. As a former Missions Ministries board member and team leader since 2005, I had no doubt that Charlotte would be an invaluable participant in these trips of faith and service.

Charlotte has traveled to Juarez with Rhodes to Relief and Missions Ministries since 2014. Over these years, our team has built 19 houses for families living in shacks, pallet structures, or even abandoned busses. In her usual fashion, Charlotte has become a leader of the 15-25 member team. She repeatedly volunteers and organizes shopping for the recipient families before we cross the Rio Grande. She has framed more than her fair share and climbed on the roof accepting the full burden of the hot Mexican sun to spread tar paper. She does not hesitate to cut and then stuff fiberglass insulation in the walls and ceiling, a task that other members shirk. Charlotte has increased the power and financial strength of Rhodes to Relief by adding her

friends, daughters, and sister to the team as we help feed and build for this under-served population.

Charlotte's tireless work in this faith-based ministry shows her commitment and dedication to service and fairness. Her acceptance of more than her share of the harder and distasteful projects confirms that she is fair-minded and constantly considering the necessary options to complete the tasks before her. Charlotte Sweeney's dedication to service and fairness will serve her well as a judge for the District of Colorado. I enthusiastically support her nomination.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhonda Rhodes", written in a cursive style.

Rhonda Rhodes

Attorney at Law

cc: The Honorable Michael Bennett
The Honorable John Hickenlooper