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September 14, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for Charlotte N. Sweeney for the U.S. District Court of Colorado

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing you today as President and co-founder of the Matthew Shepard Foundation. My husband Dennis and I launched the Matthew Shepard Foundation over twenty years ago not only to honor our son Matt's memory, but to advance his personal dedication to civil and human rights, as well as to advocate for criminal justice and fairness.

My reason in writing is to give my strong endorsement to the judicial appointment of Charlotte N. Sweeney to the U.S. District Court of Colorado. I am glad to support the judgment of Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper who have included Ms. Sweeney in their slate of judicial appointees for the current opening.

Charlotte Sweeney is an exceptional attorney and serves as a partner at Sweeney & Bechtold, where she frequently specializes in discrimination and civil rights cases. She also helped draft Colorado's 2019 Equal Pay for Equal Work Act.

Significantly, at my personal invitation, she has also served on the board of directors of the Matthew Shepard Foundation since 2016. We are truly proud of her commitment, as well as her excellent counsel and judgment in support of our civil rights mission.

Charlotte Sweeney has the temperament, character and integrity to serve the people of Colorado, and all Americans, with honor and distinction. I am proud to call her a friend, and to urge her appointment to the federal bench.

Sincerely,

Judy Shepard

cc: The Honorable Michael Bennett
The Honorable John Hickenlooper