

April 21, 2016

Re: *Senate Consideration of Supreme Court Nominee*

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations committed to advancing women's legal rights and protections, we write to urge you to consider the nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court's decisions give meaning to legal rights for women, including women's constitutional right to equality under the law and to make the most personal and private decisions, such as whether to have an abortion or to use contraception. The Court's decisions likewise are key in determining the scope and interpretation of statutes prohibiting sex discrimination at work and at school, and laws establishing civil rights, voting rights, and health and safety regulations. The Court's decisions in these and many other areas of the law, such as affirmative action and immigration, affect the lives of women and girls across the country for generations. That is why women, and all those who rely on the courts for justice, need the Court to be functioning at full force.

Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution provides that the President "shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . Judges of the supreme Court." The Constitution does not create exceptions for presidential election years. In fact, since 1900, the Senate has voted on eight nominations to the Supreme Court during election years, including, most recently, the nomination of Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy. The nomination of any Supreme Court Justice is too important to be subject to political gamesmanship.

We urge you to ensure that the Senate Judiciary Committee holds fair and expeditious hearings and a vote on the nomination of Judge Garland. We also urge you to press for a timely vote before the full Senate.

Please do not hesitate to contact Amy Matsui at the National Women's Law Center, at amatsui@nwl.org, should you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women
Advocates for Youth
Alliance for a Just Society
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Sexual Health Association
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Atlanta Women for Equality
Center for Reproductive Rights
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Institute for Science and Human Values

Legal Momentum
Legal Voice
Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center
Maine Women's Lobby
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Medical Students for Choice
Ms. Foundation for Women
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC)
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Congress of Black Women, Inc.
National Council of Jewish Women
National Institute for Reproductive Health
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
North Dakota Women's Network
OWL - The Voice of Women 40+
PathWays PA
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection Action Fund
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
SEIU
Southwest Women's Law Center
Ultraviolet
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
USAction
Women Employed
Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia
Women's Law Project
Women's Media Center
YWCA USA