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July 6, 2026

VIA Email

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Todd Blanche to be Attorney General of the United States

Dear Senators Grassley and Durbin:

On behalf of the National Women's Law Center (the "Center"), an organization that has advocated on behalf of women and girls for over fifty years, we write in strong opposition to the nomination of Mr. Todd Blanche to be Attorney General of the United States. Mr. Blanche's nomination threatens the independence of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the laws, protections, and rights critical to women and girls.

President Trump has chosen his personal attorney, Mr. Blanche, to lead the DOJ based on his willingness to disregard the law to achieve Trump's goals and to attack his political enemies and the populations he disfavors. As the nation's chief law enforcement official, the Attorney General is responsible for enforcing federal laws, including laws of the utmost importance to women. The Attorney General is tasked with enforcing Title VII, Title IX, the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Voting Rights Act (VRA), and the Fair Housing Act (FHA), as well as core constitutional protections, including the Equal Protection Clause, the Due Process Clause, and the right to privacy. The Department of Justice, led by the Attorney General, also enforces federal hate crime laws, which create enhanced criminal penalties for crimes that target victims based on gender, race, sexual orientation, and disability, among other characteristics. Consequently, the Attorney General has a profound impact on the legal rights and very lives of women across this country. However, Mr. Blanche has shown nothing but disregard for laws and protections that are critical to women and girls.

Mr. Blanche was nominated largely due to his willingness to go to dangerous lengths to advance Trump's political agenda, even if it requires overturning the ethical and procedural norms essential to the rule of law and ignoring the legal rights and protections critical to the wellbeing not just of women and girls, but all Americans. His role in delaying the release of the Epstein files and outing survivors, threatening to reward and encourage political violence through slush fund payments, and targeting reproductive freedom and abortion rights groups, among many other unethical and unlawful uses of the DOJ to advance Trump's political agenda, shows that he is wholly unfit to serve Americans as their Attorney General. If confirmed, the Department of Justice will continue its descent toward becoming primarily a tool for

President Trump to exact revenge against his political enemies and offer impunity from legal consequences to his political allies. Rather than confirming Mr. Blanche, Congress should take steps to remove him from the acting role he has so abused.

Mr. Blanche leveraged his position at the Department of Justice to orchestrate a coordinated cover-up of President Trump's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein and deny justice to survivors of sexual assault.

Mr. Blanche attempted to shield President Trump from public scrutiny of his long and intimate relationship with Jeffrey Epstein and distract from the growing calls for transparency into the investigation. Over the course of decades, Epstein and his powerful friends engaged in abhorrent violence against women by trafficking and sexually abusing hundreds of girls.¹ After Congress passed the Epstein Files Transparency Act² to mandate disclosure of materials relating to these criminal activities, former-Attorney General Pam Bondi put Mr. Blanche in charge of meeting the requirements of this law.³ Instead of being fully transparent and sharing all of the documents related to the Epstein investigation, as legally required, Mr. Blanche instead organized and led the cover up of President Trump's relationship with Epstein.⁴ Mr. Blanche has conceded that, under his leadership, the DOJ has failed to fully disclose materials it is obligated to release under the Epstein Files Transparency Act.⁵ Further, his failure to turn over unredacted files has impeded state investigations into the criminal activities of Epstein associates.⁶

Even before the passage of the Epstein Files Transparency Act, Mr. Blanche conspired to use his position to protect President Trump from political fallout from his relation to Epstein. On July 17, 2025, Mr. Blanche met with a group of Trump's closest allies within his administration to discuss how to gain control of the Epstein files narrative.⁷ Mr. Blanche even proposed petitioning the federal district courts in Florida and New York, specifically considering judges appointed by Democrats, to unseal specific grand jury testimonies that Mr. Blanche knew did not reference Trump, in order to give an appearance of transparency, while continuing to withhold the investigatory files in possession of DOJ.⁸ If the courts

¹ See Daniel Rutenik, *New details about Epstein's lenient plea deal and jail term Emerge from DOJ files*, CBS News, (Apr. 6, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/jeffrey-epstein-plea-deal-jail-term-doj-files/>. (Jeffrey Epstein was first charged in 2008 under federal sex trafficking charges, and of minors, but took a plea deal and only served four months in prison.)

² Epstein Files Transparency Act, H.R.4405 (enacted Nov. 19, 2025), Public Law No. 119-38.

³ Hailey Fuchs, *Bondi punts Blame for the Epstein Files to Todd Blanche*, Politico (Jun. 6, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/06/04/todd-blanche-pam-bondi-epstein-files-00951134>.

⁴ Maggie Haberman & Jonathan Swan, *Inside the White House Over the Epstein Files*, NYT. (Jun. 10, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/10/magazine/trump-epstein-files-white-house-vance-doj.html>. The fact that personally identifiable information about survivors was not fully redacted in the materials released by DOJ, while information that may be used to identify those directly involved with the abuse was thoroughly obscured, provides further evidence of Mr. Blanche's priorities.

⁵ Josh Gerstein and Kyle Cheney, *Todd Blanche 'conceded' violating law on Epstein files, judge finds*, Politico (Jun. 25, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/06/25/todd-blanche-conceded-epstein-files-00977481>.

⁶ Clara Bates, *New Mexico Attorney General: Feds Haven't Handed Over Unredacted Epstein Files*, The Santa Fe New Mexican (Jun. 10, 2026), <https://www.yahoo.com/news/politics/articles/mexico-attorney-general-feds-havent-035900747.html>.

⁷ Maggie Haberman & Jonathan Swan, *Inside the White House Over the Epstein Files*, NYT. (Jun. 10, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/10/magazine/trump-epstein-files-white-house-vance-doj.html>.

⁸ *Id.*

refused to unseal grand jury testimony related to the Epstein files, he hoped to direct blame toward the courts, and away from the administration, for failure to disclose the Epstein files.⁹ Especially at a time when harassment and violence against the judges and judicial staff is rampant, Mr. Blanche's cynical ploy to blame the courts for the administration's unwillingness to release the Epstein files is particularly troubling.¹⁰ These are not the acts of someone who is fit to serve as Attorney General.

When asked in multiple venues about his handling of the Epstein file release, Mr. Blanche has consistently shirked any personal responsibility. To date, under Mr. Blanche's leadership of DOJ, no individuals in the Epstein files have been prosecuted for their crimes against young girls.¹¹

As he oversaw the Epstein investigation, Mr. Blanche has, time and time again, prioritized protecting President Trump over seeking justice for survivors. Epstein survivors who have spoken out publicly have made it clear that they felt their concerns have been minimized by Mr. Blanche's investigation and that he is overseeing a miscarriage of justice.¹² Therefore, these survivors are opposing Mr. Blanche's nomination as Attorney General.¹³ Because Mr. Blanche has repeatedly shown in the context of the Epstein files that he considers the pursuit of justice to be secondary at best to political expediency, he is wholly unfit to be confirmed as our nation's highest law enforcement officer.

Mr. Blanche has wielded DOJ resources to undermine the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act and to incite violence against abortion providers.

Mr. Blanche led investigations into abortion groups and the attorneys who prosecute FACE Act cases to advance the false narrative that anti-abortion groups were unjustly targeted by the Biden administration.¹⁴ Under the direction of Mr. Blanche, the Office of Legal Policy at the DOJ released "The Biden Administration's Weaponization of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act" report, which claims that under President Biden the DOJ was biased against religious anti-abortion groups in the enforcement of the FACE Act.¹⁵ Further, the report claims that reproductive rights groups, including the National Abortion Federation, Planned Parenthood, and Feminist Majority Foundation, "closely collaborated" with

⁹ *Id.* Note that it is extremely atypical for courts to unseal grand jury testimony. Generally, courts will only unseal such testimony in highly specific, rare circumstances where there is a legal need for disclosure that heavily outweighs the interest in the confidentiality of proceedings.

¹⁰ See Melissa Quinn & Jacob Rosen, *The Price of Public Life: Judges and Other Officials Doxed, Swatted, Threatened with Death*, CBS News (Feb. 19, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/threats-government-officials-prosecutions/>.

¹¹ See Jude Joffe-Block et al., *Why Have There Been No Arrests from the Epstein Files?*, NPR (Apr. 3, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/04/03/nx-s1-5766260/epstein-files-arrests-doj-prosecutors>.

¹² Jake Tapper Annie Grayer, *Group of Epstein Survivors Announce Opposition to Todd Blanche's Attorney General Nomination*, CNN (Jun. 11, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/06/11/politics/epstein-survivors-blanche-nomination>.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ U.S. Dept. of Just. Press Release, *Justice Department Reveals the Biden Administration's Weaponization of Federal Law Against Pro-Life Americans*, (Apr. 14, 2026), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-reveals-biden-administrations-weaponization-federal-law-against-pro-life>; U.S. Dept. of Just. Report, *The Biden Administration's Weaponization of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act*, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1436006/dl?inline>.

¹⁵ U.S. Dept. of Just. Report, *The Biden Administration's Weaponization of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act*.

the Biden DOJ to investigate anti-abortion groups and violate their rights.¹⁶ However, this report is little more than political hit piece that cherry-picks email conversations and manipulates data to weave a false narrative about career prosecutors enforcing federal law against violent criminals and nonprofit groups working to protect reproductive freedom.¹⁷ The report manufactures disparities by comparing punishments for different crimes; it deceptively indicates that the FACE Act was not used by the Biden administration to protect churches, when in fact more appropriate laws were used to protect churches; and it portrays convicted criminals who physically barricaded clinic entrances, injured clinic staff, ignored law enforcement, and prevented patients from receiving care as “non-violent.”¹⁸ Rather than seeking equal treatment under the law, the report serves as post-hoc justification for the administration’s policy of selective enforcement of the FACE Act based on religious beliefs and whether the targets are politically favored.¹⁹ Even as it politicized FACE Act enforcement through this report, Mr. Blanche’s DOJ fired four career prosecutors who successfully obtained convictions of individuals who violently protested abortion clinics.²⁰ Further, the report threatened these career DOJ staff by stating that DOJ may “refer current or former employees for criminal prosecution.”²¹

But Mr. Blanche didn’t stop at punishing those who enforced the law against politically inconvenient targets. In setting up the much-reported \$1.8 billion slush fund through a collusive settlement with President Trump, his former client, Mr. Blanche agreed that payments should be made to the FACE Act violators that Trump pardoned in 2025.²² Combined with the non-enforcement policies of Mr. Blanche’s DOJ, this would effectively create a system where not only would those who commit violence against abortion clinics and staff not be held accountable under the law, they would be paid by the government. Such a plan would incentivize violence against providers that offer abortion services and their staff as well as the women and girls who receive care.

In his press statement about the weaponization report, Mr. Blanche claimed that “This Department will not tolerate a two-tiered system of justice,” and that “No Department should conduct selective

¹⁶ U.S. Dept. of Just. Press Release, *Justice Department Reveals the Biden Administration’s Weaponization of Federal Law Against Pro-Life Americans*, (Apr. 14, 2026), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-reveals-biden-administrations-weaponization-federal-law-against-pro-life>.

¹⁷ Regan Rush and Megan Marks, *Separating Face from Fiction in FACE Act Enforcement*, Just Security (Apr. 14, 2026), <https://www.justsecurity.org/136275/separating-face-from-fiction-face-act-enforcement/>.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*; see also U.S. Dept. of Justice, Memorandum for Kathleen Wolfe, Supervisory Official of the Civil Rights Division regarding FACE Act Charging Policy, (Jan. 24, 2025), <https://redlinecivilrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/FACE-FACE-Act-Charging-Policy-Kathleen-Wolfe-2025.01.24.pdf> (restricting enforcement of the FACE Act when the criminal conduct is directed at abortion clinics).

²⁰ Anna Durkin Richer, *Justice Department Fires 4 Prosecutors Accused of Bias Against Anti-Abortion Activists*, AP News (Apr. 14, 2026), <https://apnews.com/article/justice-department-firings-face-act-blanche-048a57124fbd2f290698664807305153>; Regan Rush and Megan Marks (2026).

²¹ U.S. Dept. of Just. Report, *The Biden Administration’s Weaponization of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act*, at 37, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1436006/dl?inline>.

²² Todd Blanche, Order, Office of Attorney General, (May 19, 2026), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1441216/dl>; Factsheet, *The President’s Slush Fund: A Gift to the Anti-Abortion Movement and A Blow to Our Democracy*, NWLC (Jun. 4, 2026), <https://nwlc.org/resource/the-presidents-slush-fund-a-gift-to-the-anti-abortion-movement-and-a-blow-to-our-democracy/>.

prosecution based on beliefs.”²³ But that is exactly what Mr. Blanche created and enabled: a DOJ where prosecutors are investigated for enforcing the law even as violent criminals are pardoned and given payouts, assuming they are politically aligned with the President, of course.

Despite the fact that the Attorney General lacks the power to unilaterally set up a multi-billion dollar granting agency that operates outside congressional authorization or oversight; despite the fact that as Trump’s former attorney, Mr. Blanche is ethically barred from working on legal matters related personally to Trump; and despite the fact that Mr. Blanche’s slush fund has received bipartisan criticism from Congress, he has refused to affirm in court that the slush fund will not move forward.²⁴ Mr. Blanche has displayed a staggering lack of professional and legal judgment throughout the slush fund debacle. Or perhaps his judgment was overridden by his fanatical devotion to Trump. Regardless, an individual who would so abuse his position in an ‘acting’ role should never be confirmed.

Mr. Blanche has repeatedly shown that his loyalty is solely to President Trump, not the Constitution, and that he will use every means at his disposal to target Trump’s political enemies.

During his first press conference as Acting Attorney General in 2026, Mr. Blanche claimed that his firing of several career DOJ prosecutors was based on ethical requirements, not political judgements.²⁵ He stated that those prosecutors could not ethically work for a boss, namely President Trump, that they previously investigated.²⁶ Unfortunately, Mr. Blanche did not explore whether the same theory of ethics applies to him – that is, whether he, as Acting Attorney General, could ethically work for a boss he previously defended in his personal capacity. It is starkly apparent that Mr. Blanche sees no distinction between his representation of Donald Trump’s personal interests and his representation of the United States, as Mr. Blanche in his current role has immediately turned his attention—and the full power of the Department of Justice—toward targeting Trump’s political enemies and protecting his political allies.

The list of politically motivated actions by the DOJ under Mr. Blanche’s leadership against President Trump’s enemies is extensive. Mr. Blanche has initiated a number of baseless and pretextual investigations and sought indictments based on highly dubious legal theories, including launching a civil rights investigation into ActBlue, obtaining an indictment of the Southern Poverty Law Center, and obtaining a second indictment against former FBI Director James Comey.²⁷ Additionally, he filed motions to vacate the seditious conspiracy convictions of the leader of the white nationalist group, the Oath Keepers, and he sought to completely erase the criminal charges of the individuals involved in the

²³ U.S. Dept. of Just. Press Release, *Justice Department Reveals the Biden Administration’s Weaponization of Federal Law Against Pro-Life Americans*.

²⁴ Robert Legare, *DOJ Rebuffs Judge’s Demand to State “Anti-Weaponization” Fund Is Officially Dead*, CBS News (Jun. 19, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/anti-weaponization-fund-justice-department-judge-declaration-blanche-bessent/>.

²⁵ Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche Announces Establishment of National Fraud Enforcement Division, U.S. Dept. of Justice (Apr. 7, 2026), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/video/acting-attorney-general-todd-blanche-announces-establishment-national-fraud-enforcement>.

²⁶ *Justice Department moves to toss conspiracy convictions for Jan. 6 rioters*, The Associated Press (Apr. 15, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/04/15/g-s1-117473/justice-department-toss-seditious-conspiracy>.

²⁷ Monica Alba, Ryan J. Reilly, and Alexandra Bacallao, *As Comey is indicted, Trump is said to be happy with acting Attorney General Blanche*, N.Y. Times (Apr. 29, 2026), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/comey-indicted-trump-said-happy-acting-attorney-general-blanche-rcna342664>.

January 6th riots.²⁸ He also approved a criminal inquiry into a previous January 6th witness before Congress, Cassidy Hutchinson.²⁹ Mr. Blanche pushed for a career DOJ attorney to restore the gun rights of one of Trump's personal friends, Mel Gibson, an actor known for yelling racial slurs in public and for domestic violence.³⁰ The DOJ pardon attorney refused to recommend the restoration of Mel Gibson's gun rights after reviewing the particulars of his conviction for battery against his girlfriend, and as a result, Mr. Blanche fired the DOJ pardon attorney.³¹ In another favor to President Trump, Mr. Blanche sought to make DOJ responsible for paying the \$83 million judgement against the President for defamation and sexual assault in the E. Jean Carroll case.³² Mr. Blanche also defended the increased ICE presence in Minneapolis that led to the murder of two protesters by ICE agents,³³ and he has since sought indictment of 15 DHS protestors in Minnesota based on questionable allegations of ties to antifa.³⁴

Mr. Blanche has not maintained and will not maintain the independence of the DOJ. He categorically rejects that norm so critical to our constitutional order, and he has instead wielded the Department as President Trump's personal law firm, placing the immense power of federal prosecution and law enforcement at Trump's beck and call. His nomination puts the laws, rights, and legal protections critical to women and girls in peril. Mr. Blanche's treatment of the Epstein survivors, his selective enforcement and weaponization of the FACE Act, and his role as President Trump's enforcer makes clear that Mr. Blanche has little regard for equal justice or the rule of law.

²⁸ Jacob Rosen and Joe Walsh, *DOJ moves to dismiss Jan. 6 convictions against former Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, including seditious conspiracy charges*, CBS News (Apr. 15, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/doj-moves-dismiss-jan-6-convictions-proud-boys-oath-keepers-seditious-conspiracy/>.

²⁹ Glenn Thrush, Alan Feauer, and Kenneth P. Vogel, *Todd Blanche Targets Trump's Enemies Amid Jockeying to Lead Justice Dept.*, N.Y. Times (Apr. 24, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/24/us/politics/todd-blanche-trump-doj.html>.

³⁰ Devlin Barrett, *Justice Dept. Official Says She Was Fired for Opposing Restoring Mel Gibson's Gun Rights*, N.Y. Times (Mar. 10, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/10/us/politics/justice-department-mel-gibson.html>; Pat Saperstein, *Mel Gibson to Have his Gun Rights Restored by Justice Department*, Variety (Apr. 3, 2025), <https://variety.com/2025/politics/news/mel-gibson-gun-rights-restored-1236359708/>.

³¹ *Id.*

³² Erica Orden, *DOJ seeks to take on Trump's E. Jean Carroll case*, Politico (May 6, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/05/06/e-jean-carroll-justice-department-supreme-court-00908303>.

³³ Peter Baker, *Trump Supports the Protesters, Except those Protesting Him*, N.Y. Times (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/13/us/politics/trump-protesters-iran-minnesota.html>; Todd Blanche (@DAGToddBlanche), Twitter (Jan. 14, 2026, 9:03 PM), <https://x.com/DAGToddBlanche/status/2011620198751597028>.

³⁴ Nina Moyni and Ngoc Bui, *Prosecutors Say Indicted Anti-ICE Protestors Have Ties to Antifa Groups. What Is Antifa?*, MPR News (Jun. 17, 2026), <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2026/06/17/minnesota-indicted-protesters-what-is-antifa>.

It is difficult to imagine a man less qualified to be confirmed as Attorney General than Todd Blanche. Mr. Blanche is the antithesis of everything the Department of Justice stands for. We implore the Senate to roundly reject this nomination. If you have questions about the Center's strong opposition to Mr. Blanche's nomination, please contact me, or Alison Gill, Director of Nominations & Democracy, at agill@nwlc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fatima Goss Graves". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Fatima" being the most prominent.

Fatima Goss Graves
President and CEO