



MOTHERS

FOR JUSTICE & EQUALITY

September 10, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
US Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Office #224 Washington, DE 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing to express the support of Mothers for Justice and Equality (MJE) for the nomination of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins for the position of United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

I have had the opportunity to work with DA Rollins since she assumed office in January 2019 through my role as Founder and CEO of Mothers for Justice and Equality (MJE). DA Rollins has been an advocate for helping survivors of homicide obtain justice for the unsolved murders of their children and family members.

MJE was founded in 2010 by mothers who had lost children to violence. Our population is struggling with the impact of trauma resulting from community violence, homicide, domestic violence, and related issues. MJE's philosophy is that the recovery of the individual is essential for the recovery of the family and the community.

During DA Rollins' tenure as the Suffolk County District Attorney, she has shown respect and support for victims of violence. DA Rollins hosted the annual Survivors of Homicide Breakfast to bring together families and service providers. She expanded and relocated the annual event in order to host more families than ever in 2019 and held the event remotely in 2020 to ensure that survivors of homicide continue to receive recognition and support amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

DA Rollins adopted a Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP), a healing-centered mission and practices to support survivors of homicide. The program formalized relationships with dozens of emergency service providers and provided funding to secure emergency housing and other services for survivors of homicide, human trafficking, individuals who are fleeing dangerous situations.

DA Rollins has also shown empathy and compassion. She attended MJE's Valentines' Day breakfast in 2019 to hear from 75 MJE members about the impact of violence on our community. Her determination to bring those who commit crimes against community is needed at the highest levels of federal prosecution. These qualities make her a perfect fit for a United States Attorney.

All of us at Mother for Justice and Equality thank you for your consideration of this letter of support and hope that you will confirm her nomination.

Sincerely,

Monalisa Smith

Monalisa Smith
Founder and CEO