



September 15, 2021

The Honorable Richard Durbin Chairman,
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: NOMINATION OF RACHAEL ROLLINS TO US ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

It is with great pleasure and confidence that I write this letter of support with respect to the nomination of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins for the position of United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

UTEC is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to serving justice-involved young adults in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts who have prior histories of serious gang or criminal involvement. All of our work is centered around reducing recidivism while simultaneously increasing the educational and employment outcomes of young adults. We have a team of Streetworkers who work to facilitate peacemaking agreements between rival gang members on the streets, while conducting "in-reach" in the jails and prisons. And once engaged, we offer employment in our social enterprises, onsite educational programming, mental health counseling, free child care, and varied other services including involving young adults in advocacy and policy work on the issues directly affecting their lives.

It is important to note that our organization is not within Suffolk County. I share this because District Attorney Rollin's leadership on so many issues has had a transformative impact well beyond one county on how we collectively view the possibilities for true criminal justice reform. Through her authenticity and directness, she has opened up conversations that have been critically needed. She brings a realness to this work, a compassion for victims and their families, a solid sense of humor (which should not be overlooked in her skill set of relating with so many different stakeholders!), and a true commitment to

advancing racial equity. Over time, I strongly believe that her leadership will help normalize the type of conversations, policies, and practices that may now be seen as "unique" or "innovative."

Since her election and even beforehand, UTEC has had the pleasure of working directly with DA Rollins in a number of ways. She first met some of our young adults through a candidate forum debate that they hosted where she outlined varied innovative approaches to reducing youth crime and supporting victims of violence. She stayed involved in our work through her championing of our young adults' advocacy of new juvenile expungement legislation. Her key voice on this issue was widely appreciated by them as they moved forward in successfully advocating for its passage nearly two years ago. And most recently, she has been involved in a new learning lab convening that UTEC has organized with other state leaders to look at best practices in the area of emerging adult justice.

The type of bold leadership needed and demonstrated by DA Rollins, in any public sector or private industry, will clearly garner opposing feedback. And many of these conversations have been needed to be ignited for some time now so that we can best deal with the root causes of systemic injustices. Her genuine passion for working with all impacted by the criminal justice system coupled with her commitment to data has allowed her to uniquely and effectively walk into a variety of different rooms with respect and the capacity to bridge divides that have remained for too long. DA Rollins has impacted this area in a profound way in a very brief period of time and it is clear that the opportunity for impact at the federal level is immense through her leadership.

Finally, I would like to point out that DA Rollins has emphasized proximity in her leadership. From having all her Assistant District Attorneys visit the local jail as part of their initial training to meeting with victims, families, and community members on a regular basis, this proximity to the issues directly impacting the lives of so many residents seems to propel her capacity for change and justice. And it will clearly serve her well as the next US District Attorney of Massachusetts.

We are proud to have partnershered with her on varied issues, strongly endorse her nomination, and look forward to the impact she will undoubtedly have in this new role. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at gcroteau@utecinc.org. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support.

Sincerely,



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