



September 10, 2021

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

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

RE: NOMINATION OF RACHAEL ROLLINS TO US ATTORNEY-DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of My Life My Choice, I am writing to express our full support for the nomination of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins for the position of United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. My Life My Choice is a Boston-based, nationally-recognized survivor-led anti-trafficking program that seeks to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Since 2002, My Life My Choice has served approximately 800 exploited or high-risk youth through one-on-one Survivor Mentoring, provided prevention groups to over 2,450 girls in Massachusetts, and trained more than 21,000 youth-serving professionals across the United States and Canada. As the Co-Founder & Co-Executive Director of My Life My Choice, I have had the privilege of working alongside DA Rollins since she took office in January 2019. Throughout her tenure, she has been a clear robust advocate for accountability and justice and an outspoken champion for victims of trafficking.

In our day to day work at My Life My Choice, we see the profound impact of commercial sexual exploitation on minors. We see the violence that is perpetrated and the trauma that is endured. DA Rollins sees all of this and her commitment never wavers. She chooses to be briefed on every single recovery of a victim of trafficking (minor or adult) and is invested in the nuances of the cases. We know DA Rollins to be a dogged prosecutor who believes in accountability and justice as it relates to these egregious examples of child abuse. Her Human Trafficking team, under her direction and clear guidance, is extraordinary in their thorough investigation of cases, their ability to wrestle with the nuances of these complicated cases, and their investment in advancing prosecutions. In the past eight months alone, DA Rollins team has overseen cases involving over 200 victims and their families. While DA Rollins is known for moving the criminal justice system away from low-level crimes that are more related to systemic racism than community safety, she never shies away from the heinous crime of trafficking.

Perhaps most powerful for our team at My Life My Choice, DA Rollins runs an office where the victim is paramount: the trafficking victim's safety and well-being is at the absolute center of every case. She,

alongside members of her unit, works collaboratively with service providers as well as various sectors of law enforcement, child protection and juvenile justice to ensure that victims have a tightly woven safety net that puts their needs above all else. In these complex trafficking cases, her team has consistently prioritized the victim connecting with a Survivor Mentor at My Life My Choice so that this young person has someone in their corner who has been where they have been, survived what they have survived, and understands. DA Rollins knows that supporting a victim comprehensively is not only the right thing to do but leads to better prosecutions. Further, DA Rollins understands that trafficking is a crime disproportionately perpetrated against youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth. She is outspoken about the profound impact of systemic racism, transphobia and homophobia and is diligent in fighting that battle in everything she does.

Lastly, for the girls of color who make up the bulk of victims served by My Life My Choice, DA Rollins is a powerful role model. She meets with members of our Leadership Corps at minimum once a year, listening to their input in an effort to create truly responsive victim services and imparting her steadfast belief in their futures. As a team, we at My Life My Choice are so impressed by DA Rollins that we chose to give her our *Beacon of Light Award* in 2020. One of the young survivors we serve, age 16, presented the award to DA Rollins and summed up who she is in this work by saying the following:

"This award is going out to a very inspirational, strong, iconic and powerful woman that has challenged my beliefs on authority figures in the justice system. In my experience, I have had very negative interactions with the system. The recipient of this award has instilled hope in me."

In sum, it is without reservation that I offer my full support of District Attorney Rachael Rollins' nomination to become the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 617-699-4998 or lgrace@jri.org.

Sincerely,



Lisa Goldblatt Grace, LICSW, MPH
Co-Founder & Co-Executive Director