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The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

It is with enthusiasm that I support the nomination of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael S. Rollins, a nominee to serve as the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. I had the great benefit of working with Rachael when I was the U. S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts and she was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the office. Since her time in the U.S. Attorney's Office, I have watched how she has progressed in her professional life and I believe she has the necessary skills and attributes to be an exceptional United States Attorney.

I was the U.S. Attorney from November 2009 through January 2017, after having served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Economic Crimes Division for 12 years. Previously in my career, I also served as an Assistant District Attorney for the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office from 1983-1988 and then again from 1992-1995. As a prior state and federal prosecutor, I was charged with enforcing the law and seeking justice for the people in our communities who suffered harm. My goal was always to protect and obtain justice for victims of crime, while at the same time, ensuring that defendant's rights were properly observed. I have seen how Rachael has been committed to seeking justice for all and to ensuring that injustices are corrected. I am confident that she is well-suited to serve the District of Massachusetts as U.S. Attorney given her experience as both a District Attorney and Assistant U.S. Attorney.

Rachael is well known across the Commonwealth for her commitment to transforming our local criminal legal system to one more in line with justice and proportionate accountability for those who commit crime. She was elected by the residents of Suffolk County to implement changes within the District Attorney's Office that would end the criminalization of poverty, mental illness and substance use disorders by offering low-level offenders access to treatment services and diversion programs. Her approach to justice and accountability, have allowed the Suffolk District Attorney's Office to focus prosecution resources on serious offenders who cause the greatest harm to the community.

Importantly, I've observed how Rachael has remained committed to serving victims and survivors of crime by implementing policies that allow them to play a more active role in the accountability measures sought by the office. Her office also assists survivors and their families by helping them gain access to recovery services and victim compensation funds in a culturally informed and compassionate way.

Over the last year and a half, our country has been forced to examine our institutions and it has become clear that those who lead them can have a profound effect on their future trajectory. Rachael is undoubtedly well qualified to lead the U.S. Attorney's Office and I am confident that she will lead with integrity and courage, while prioritizing justice for victims and offering new solutions for crime prevention. As a former U. S. Attorney working for President Obama's administration, prevention and intervention were critical hallmarks under the "Smart on Crime" policies adopted under former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. Nothing made me prouder than to enhance our law enforcement efforts, with crime prevention, intervention and community engagement. I know Rachael shares those same beliefs.

Notably, if confirmed by the United States Senate, Rachael would be the first Black woman to serve as U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, just as she was the first woman ever elected to be Suffolk County D.A. and first Black woman to be elected D.A. in Massachusetts. We live in a very diverse community, and it is important that our leadership, especially in law enforcement, reflect the community we serve.

Rachael will serve the Commonwealth proudly in the role of U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. She is passionate about justice, ending the criminalization of poverty and reimagining a better criminal justice system for all. She is a driven public servant who will leave a lasting impact on the office she has been nominated to.

I respectfully urge the Judiciary Committee to swiftly and favorably advance Rachael's nomination, and for the Senate to ultimately confirm her as U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at 617-621-6529.

Sincerely,


Carmen Ortiz