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AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for reaffirming your commitment to nominate the first Black woman to the Supreme Court of the United States. As you consider a potential nominee, I write to share my support for the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

I have known Ketanji since she was a child in Miami. She is the daughter of two proud HBCU graduates, Johnny and Ellery Brown. Her parents brought their family to Miami and dedicated their careers to enriching the lives of children in the Miami-Dade County Public School System. Her father, Johnny Brown, is a trailblazer too. When I was a Miami-Dade County School Board member, I proudly voted for his hiring as the first Black School Board Attorney.

Following in her father's footsteps, Ketanji demonstrated superb oratory and debate skills as a high school student. After graduating from Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Ketanji continued her academic success at Harvard University. She graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in government and *cum laude* with a Juris Doctor degree. Ketanji's excellence created a pipeline of success from Miami Palmetto Senior High School to Harvard, replicated by Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, who graduated from Miami Palmetto Senior High School and Harvard a few years after her. Ketanji, being a brilliant jurist and having such strong family ties to Miami, has garnered the support of hundreds in the Miami judiciary community who have reached out to me personally to champion Ketanji as an excellent nominee for the Supreme Court.

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President Obama appointed Ketanji to serve as vice-chair of the United States Sentencing Commission. Later, she served as a public defender. With her experience as a public defender, she represents a viewpoint that few justices have had; in fact, the last justice to have similar experiences was the late Justice Thurgood Marshall. Her placement on the Supreme Court will continue your efforts to ensure public defenders and civil rights lawyers are represented on the federal bench.

While this pick is ultimately yours and yours alone, it is worth noting that when Ketanji was up for consideration to become a United States Circuit Judge, the chair of the nomination board, Attorney Pauline Schneider, had a conversation with Justice Stephen Breyer. Attorney Schneider accounts that Justice Breyer enthusiastically endorsed Ketanji and said, "Hire her! She's great and she's brilliant. She is a mix of common sense, thoughtfulness. She is decent. She is very smart and has the mix of skills and experience we need on the bench." As Ketanji had previously clerked for Justice Breyer, his accounts show his trust in Ketanji and her capabilities. With the praise of Justice Breyer and the praise of former Speaker Paul Ryan, who said, "I know she is clearly qualified. But it bears repeating just how qualified she is." There is no doubt of her qualifications or ability to garner the support needed in the Senate, as she did in 2021 with the same senators.

Mr. President, again, I want to thank you for keeping your commitment to nominate the first Black woman to the Supreme Court of the United States. I hope you will nominate Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Sincerely,



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

CC: Chair Richard Durbin, Committee on the Judiciary