

April 12, 2021

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to support the nomination of Kristen Clarke to be Associate Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). The Civil Rights Division of the DOJ is charged with upholding the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans. This involves enforcing federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity), disability, religion, familial status, national origin, and citizenship status. Kristen Clarke not only has the career experience that is needed for this mission, but also the wisdom, skills and ability needed to further implement and enforce these critical measures.

As the current President and Executive Director of the National Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (Lawyers' Committee), Clarke has been a leader in promoting fairness in housing, reproductive access, immigrants' rights, economic justice, voting rights, disability rights, education, LBGTQIA+ issues and criminal justice. She has made an impressive career of doing just these things, including serving at the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF), and as head of the Civil Rights Bureau for the New York Attorney General's Office. Wherever she has been she has worked to expand meaningful civil rights measures for all.

The nation is confronting some very serious challenges at this time. We know it is more important than ever that an individual with solid leadership, integrity and commitment serve the nation at DOJ in this important position. Kristen Clarke is just such a person. Too many Americans continue to face racism and discrimination that result in disparities across a wide range of issues such as in community development, fair lending, public accommodations, educational opportunity, judicial diversity and with the administration of justice in the courts. Clarke will no doubt help to improve the condition that many working families face and prepare our nation for the challenges of the future, particularly for some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

We urge members of the U.S. Senate to vote yes on the nomination of Kristen Clarke to be Associate Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division.

Sincerely,



Bailey K. Childers
Director of Federal Government Affairs

BKC:cg

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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