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December 16, 2016

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy,

As the chief legal officers of our respective states, we write to express our unqualified support for the nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions for Attorney General of the United States. The challenges we face often cross state lines, and it is imperative that we have as our nation's chief law enforcement officer someone who has the experience, the knowledge, and the principles to work with us to meet those challenges. No one is more qualified to fill that role than Sen. Sessions.

Sen. Sessions has stood in our shoes before. As the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama for twelve years and a former Attorney General of Alabama, he understands the needs of federal, state, county, and local prosecutors and law enforcement officers within our jurisdictions. He will bring that knowledge to bear as he crafts federal policy that will help us to enforce the law. And Sen. Sessions has first-hand experience as a prosecutor. He has faced the challenges of balancing justice with fairness and the rule of law with individual freedom, qualifications that make him well suited to his new role.

Of course, Sen. Sessions is no stranger to us. Many of us have worked with him during his time serving on the very same Senate Judiciary Committee that now considers his nomination. His leadership on important policy matters has been invaluable. For example, his efforts to reduce the unfair disparity in drug sentencing is well known. He introduced the first bipartisan drug sentencing reform act in 2001, and he worked tirelessly to bring Senators from both sides of the aisle together to support it. That hard work paid off. The Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, which he co-authored and co-sponsored with Ranking Member Leahy and Sen. Durbin and which President Obama signed into law, has not only saved the federal government millions of dollars and reduced sentences for non-violent offenders, it has set a standard for fairness in sentencing that our states have sought to emulate. We need that kind of thoughtfulness, discretion, and leadership at the helm of the Department of Justice.

Few positions are more important than our nation's attorney general. The person who fills that role is not only charged with keeping our streets safe, but upholding the legal principles that are the bedrock of our republic. Sen. Sessions has proven over a long and distinguished career that he has the character to serve as United States Attorney General for all Americans. We urge his confirmation.

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
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Sincerely,

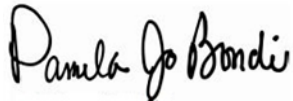


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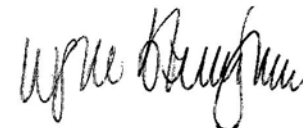
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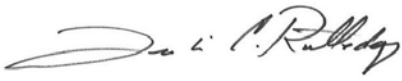
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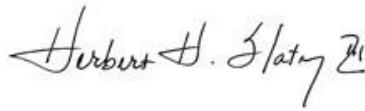
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