

September 15, 2022

Sent via email: [David Stoopler@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:David_Stoopler@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
c/o U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal
303 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Letter in Support of the Nomination of **Maria Araujo Kahn**
to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write today, as members of Connecticut's disability community, in strong support of the nomination of Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Maria Araujo Kahn to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. The undersigned represent people living with disabilities and long-time disability rights advocates.

Most of us know Justice Kahn from her time as a staff attorney at the State of Connecticut Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, the state agency that served as Connecticut's protection and advocacy system. Even in her early years, Justice Kahn served as a role model who listened with patience, care, curiosity, and respect to the concerns of clients with disabilities, and then advocated zealously, responsibly, and effectively on their behalf. While Justice Kahn was an attorney at Protection and Advocacy, the agency filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of individuals who were Deaf or Hard of Hearing and had been denied access to effective communication while patients in an emergency room at one of 8 Connecticut hospitals. Justice Kahn worked tirelessly on the case. Her compassion and commitment steered the case in key directions moving it forward at unprecedented speed and resulting in a comprehensive settlement with all 32 Connecticut hospitals.

Justice Kahn has been a mentor to those with diverse backgrounds in disability law, advocacy, and policy. She readily shared her knowledge and provided opportunities for colleagues to build a stronger cadre of disability advocates ready to uphold the civil rights of people with disabilities.

Justice Kahn has served as a judge in Connecticut's Superior Court, Appellate Court, and currently sits as an associate justice on the Connecticut Supreme Court. She would be an asset to the federal bench and we recommend the committee's favorable consideration of Justice Kahn's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,

Kathy Flaherty
Executive Director
Connecticut Legal Rights Project

James D. McGaughey
Former Executive Director
State of Connecticut Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

Catherine E. Cushman
Former Managing Attorney
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