

**Prepared Remarks by Congresswoman Joyce Beatty of Ohio
Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus
Committee Hearing to Consider Supreme Court Nominee Judge
Ketanji Brown Jackson March 24, 2022**

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Members of the Committee:

I am Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative for Ohio's 3rd District, HBCU graduate, and first-ever Chairwoman of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion. It is an honor to appear before you to express my strong and unwavering support for the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States.

As Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I speak on behalf of 59 Members of Congress — including 28 Black women and 31 Black men — together representing 17 million Black Americans and 82 million Americans.

For over two centuries since our country's founding, the Court consisted exclusively of white men. Of the 115 justices, 108 have been white men. As the nation has learned during these hearings, Judge Jackson is an exceptionally qualified jurist of unimpeachable character. And she would be only the sixth woman and first Black woman to serve on our nation's highest court. If confirmed, she would shatter a glass ceiling that many Americans believed they would never live to see broken.

As a Black woman myself, I urge this body to remember that Judge Jackson's confirmation vote must not be isolated to her gender or her race.

Instead, I urge you to closely examine her credentials and her sterling judicial record. To me, they read like a storybook for the perfectly prepared jurist to sit on the nation's highest court. She is grounded in family values, love of God and country, and academic excellence. In my recent conversation with her, it became immediately clear why President Biden chose her. Her life experience, education, and reverence for the rule of law clearly demonstrate that she has been preparing for this moment her entire life. She is more than ready!

Sadly, but not surprisingly, Judge Jackson has been the subject of unfair attacks. These bad-faith efforts exist despite a resume that arguably surpasses those of previous nominees. I remind this body—and America—that she clerked for Justice Breyer, whose very seat she is being considered for. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School, where she served as an editor of the prestigious Harvard Law Review. And just last year, Judge Jackson was confirmed by this body on a bipartisan basis to serve on the D.C. Circuit Court. She has issued more than 500 opinions and has served as a Vice Chair on the U.S. Sentencing Commission, as a federal public defender, and as a law clerk at all three levels of the federal judiciary.

The confirmation of Judge Jackson will send a message to Black women and little girls, like my granddaughter Leah. Leah's mother, Judge Laurel Beatty Blunt, is the first Black woman to serve on the 10th District Court of Appeals, and Leah's first known president was a Black man. And now she sees a Black female Vice President—so if a guidance

counselor tells her, “your goals are too high,” she will remember today and how Judge Jackson soared against adversity as one our nation’s brightest legal minds. Judge Jackson will bring her lifetime of perspective as a Black woman to the bench—something the nation’s highest court has never seen.

It reminds me of Black women from abolitionists to women like Rosa Parks, to Constance Baker Motley, the first Black woman to argue at the Supreme Court and the first Black woman appointed to the federal judiciary, and whose birthday Judge Jackson shares. These heroic Americans and Judge Jackson remind me of this phrase: “Never limit yourself because of others’ limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination.”

In the face of this historic nomination, the Congressional Black Caucus established a War Room to stand with Judge Jackson to ensure that she is treated with the dignity and respect she deserves. I call on the Senate Judiciary Committee leadership to unequivocally stamp out any conscious or unconscious bias or discrimination as this process moves forward. Let’s change the world by swiftly confirming Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson with a bipartisan vote.