

July 8, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Mary Kay Costello to the United States District Court for
the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Dear Senators Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

I write to provide my unequivocal and enthusiastic support for my Mary Kay Costello's judicial nomination and confirmation. I am an Assistant Federal Defender and have practiced in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania since 2007. I have known Mary Kay for many years and our paths regularly professionally intersected.

Given the nature of our different positions, we most certainly did not always agree; but I can say with the greatest confidence even in those adversarial situations, Mary Kay demonstrated perception, understanding and humanity. In my experience she approached each case with genuine care and honesty, while never straying from her prosecutorial path.

While there are always opportunities to agree, disagree and battle over points and issues, myself, and my colleagues were confident that if Mary Kay was the prosecutor, her approach would be straightforward, conscientious, and equitable – none of which can be taken for granted and all of which lend credibility and sincerity to the result.

Mary Kay has a unique ability to exhibit compassion and understanding while remaining level-headed, true to herself and genuinely committed to her path. She is

receptive to discourse, possesses immense intellect and demonstrates humanity towards both defendants and victims that is fundamental. She brings well-earned experience and an understanding of issues which garners her credibility, not only among her colleagues at the United States Attorney's Office, but also with opposing counsel and the bench.

Mary Kay consistently demonstrates a deep respect for, and understanding of the rule of law, integrity, appreciation for the essential role our courts play, as well as a strong sense of justice. It is these qualities that will guide her as she undertakes this new chapter and those same that would make an important and respected addition to the bench.

I have no doubt that Mary Kay's remarkable and intangible qualities of character could not be better suited for the bench and to serve the people of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth (Betsy) Toplin
Assistant Federal Defender
Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania