



Cristina.Heffernan@ASSISTments.org

April 29, 2024

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

I am writing on behalf of the ASSISTments Foundation to express our strong support for Mr. Brian Murphy's nomination as United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

The ASSISTments Foundation was started in 2019 by myself and my husband, Neil Heffernan, a professor at WPI. It is a nonprofit that is a supporting organization of Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). The purpose of the non-profit is to scale ASSISTments, an online platform that enables teachers to assign classwork and homework while at the same time allowing students to get feedback.

Our mission is to impact advancements in math instruction to make teaching and learning more evidence-based and aligned to the diverse needs of students. Since transitioning from an academic project to a robust non-profit organization, we have successfully scaled our operations to support over a million students. We did this with the assistance of many grants, both from philanthropy and the US Dept of Education, and the National Science Foundation. To give you a sense of our organization, we have over 8 federal grants that support 23 full-time employees. ASSISTments has a significant impact on math achievement and equity. The research conducted by external evaluators confirms that ASSISTments accelerates learning and highlights their ability to facilitate significant and long-lasting improvements in math. These results indicate that ASSISTments is not just a tool for academic support but a powerful equalizer that helps level the playing field and empower every student to thrive. ASSISTments is one of the most tested interventions in the United States.

Mr. Murphy has been an integral part of our journey, serving diligently on our Board of Directors since our inception, including five years as Board Secretary. His contributions, ranging from legal insights to strategic counsel, have been crucial as we navigated our transition to an independent nonprofit entity. His role extended beyond legal advice to

include collaboration with our Director of Operations in organizing board meetings and maintaining meticulous records.

Mr. Murphy's commitment to our organization and his broader legal acumen assure me that he will serve with distinction as a United States District Judge. I am confident in his ability to contribute positively to the United States of America judiciary.

I strongly endorse Mr. Murphy's nomination and recommend swift confirmation.

Thank you for considering this endorsement. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at cristina.heffernan@assistments.org or 508-250-8763.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cristina Heffernan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cristina Heffernan

Executive Director