



*State of North Carolina*  
*General Court of Justice*  
North Carolina District Attorneys

July 24, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. 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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

As a bipartisan group of North Carolina District Attorneys, we write to enthusiastically recommend North Carolina Solicitor General Ryan Park for confirmation to United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Ryan has earned our support over his years of honorable service to the N.C. Department of Justice and to the people of our state. In his time as Solicitor General, Ryan has been a faithful advocate for those commissioned with enforcing the law in our state, providing critical counsel in the full interest of justice. Ryan is a well-credentialed attorney and an exceptional advocate, whose attributes are well-suited for the federal bench.

As a state litigator, Ryan has regularly answered the call to uphold the interest of public safety in our appellate courts. He has successfully defended many convictions secured by state prosecutors, in furtherance of public peace and the rule of law. In a 2022 case, *State v. Oldroyd*, Ryan served as lead counsel before the North Carolina Supreme Court, where he restored the conviction of a defendant who participated in the ambush murder of Jonesville Police Department Sergeant Gregory Martin. Ryan's efforts ensured that Sergeant Martin's murderer would serve his full prison sentence and that justice would be served. Similarly, in *State v. Caballero*, Ryan preserved a life without parole sentence for an undocumented immigrant who murdered his neighbor and attempted to murder his neighbor's wife and infant child. These appellate defenses—and countless others like them—have bolstered the work of prosecutors and renewed confidence in the ability of our courts to punish the guilty and protect the innocent.

More broadly, Ryan has demonstrated uncommon capacity to tackle complex litigation to advance justice and accountability in our state. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ryan served as lead counsel in emergency litigation that ultimately convinced the N.C. Supreme Court to reject calls to order the premature release of inmates, effectively arguing that "any decision to release persons who have been lawfully convicted and sentenced for serious crimes" is "inherently discretionary" and thus inappropriate

for judicial review. Alternatively, Ryan encouraged the court to focus its analysis on “whether the release is likely to pose undue risks to public safety.” Ryan helped the court to understand that the impending health risks of the pandemic had to be balanced against enduring interests both in sustaining fidelity to the determinations of juries and decisions of our trial courts and in keeping the public safe from the threat of violent crime.

Furthermore, Ryan has an especially extensive background defending and promoting laws that seek to protect victims of child sexual abuse and to ensure that perpetrators of such offenses never escape just punishment. Ryan has faithfully defended the State’s position against constitutional challenges of North Carolina’s sex offender registry. He currently serves as lead counsel in a Fourth Circuit appellate defense of the registry’s restrictions on sex offenders visiting public parks and swimming pools, on working as teachers, or on holding roles where they supervise children. In that same spirit, Ryan has argued before state appellate courts, calling on them to restore full application of the SAFE Child Act, a landmark law that unanimously passed our General Assembly, which was designed to modernize and improve North Carolina’s sex offense statutes.

We offer these examples of Ryan’s effective advocacy as a litigator in the interests of public safety, not to demonstrate any allegiance to a particular position, but to illustrate his capacity to grapple with complex subject matter, amid the most trying circumstances. It speaks well of Ryan that he confronted these central questions of law and order through the most challenging period in criminal justice in the nation’s recent memory. By standing in the breach, despite the possibility of political attacks across the spectrum of society, Ryan has proven that he possesses the kind of battle-tested character and integrity worthy of the Fourth Circuit bench. The first commitment of a prosecutor is to seek and tell the truth. And it is our dedication to that value which compels us to endorse wholly Ryan’s confirmation to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, without reservation or delay.

Sincerely,



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