

END RAPE ON CAMPUS

February 24, 2023

The Honorable Dick Durbin, Chair
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsay Graham, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Statement for the Record on the Nomination of Michael Delaney for United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

Founded on principles of transparency and accountability, we at End Rape On Campus (EROC), are deeply concerned with Michael Delaney's record, particularly his mishandling of the St. Paul's High School. Delaney's use of questionable intimidation tactics, such as witness tampering and filing a motion to challenge the anonymity of Chessy Prout, then a 15-year-old sexual assault survivor, is intolerable. Therefore, his actions of impropriety and questionable judgment must serve as a disqualification in his nomination to be a U.S. Circuit Court Judge.

As an organization advocating to end campus sexual violence, we speak out against all forms of violence, including those who use subversive tactics to perpetuate the culture we seek to eradicate. Like in Chessy's experience, a survivor's experience of campus sexual violence is not exclusive to the harm committed by the assailant but is inclusive of the harm and betrayal of institutions and the people who fail to provide an equitable and safe educational environment.

One of the ethical canons that United States judges must exhibit is integrity. Delaney's stripping Chessy of her power and her right of anonymity and failing to list this case on his questionnaire before the Judicial Senate Committee clearly demonstrates Delaney's lack of integrity and disrespect for the law. Delaney's nomination to a high court will serve as a proverbial slap to survivors everywhere and signal that regardless of the trauma someone like Delaney commits, they will always continue to fail upwards.

In order to end rape culture, we must advocate for both legislative and cultural change. We must recognize that Michael Delaney's nomination is merely one example of how we fail survivors and fail to prevent sexual violence writ large. We are in solidarity with Chessy Prout and all survivors of sexual violence everywhere, and against anyone who wishes to perpetuate an unjust world.

Regards,

Kenyora Parham, MSW
Executive Director, End Rape On Campus