



February 23, 2021

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety, America's largest gun violence prevention organization, I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to serve as the next Attorney General of the United States. With the pervasive threat of gun violence in our communities and the elevated threat of armed extremism, it is clear that Judge Garland is the right leader for the Justice Department in this critical time for our nation.

Each day in America, more than 100 people die and over 230 are wounded by gun violence. For tens of thousands of Americans, gun violence is not a statistic but a daily lived reality that has only become worse during the COVID-19 pandemic. Addressing this crisis will require new leadership at the Department of Justice that will prioritize public safety and dedicate federal resources to evidence-based solutions that can save lives.

Judge Garland is uniquely prepared to serve as our nation's next Attorney General with a significant record of experience as a senior federal law enforcement official and as a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He will focus federal resources on keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals by ensuring our background check system is strong. He will protect communities that are ravaged by gun violence by taking meaningful steps to prevent gun trafficking and hold corrupt gun dealers accountable. Despite baseless attacks from the gun lobby, Judge Garland has a strong record of enforcing gun laws on the books and he demonstrated that his views on the Second Amendment were well within the judicial mainstream during his time on the Court of Appeals.

Judge Garland's leadership in the aftermath of the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building -- one of the worst acts of terror on American soil -- demonstrates the approach he will take as our nation's chief law enforcement official. During his successful efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice, Judge Garland was widely recognized not only for building a solid legal foundation for the case, but also for his humanity in caring about the needs of the survivors, their relatives and the community. As our nation confronts the growing threat of armed white supremacy after the January 6th Insurrection attempt at the U.S. Capitol, Judge Garland is a tested and proven leader who will ensure that those responsible are held accountable under the law.

During this challenging moment, we are confident that Judge Garland will bring renewed focus on preventing gun violence and strengthening public safety. We fully support his confirmation and hope that the Judiciary Committee will act quickly to send this important nomination to a vote before the full Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

John Feinblatt
President, Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund