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January 18, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Re: U.S. District Court Judge J. Michelle Childs, Nominee for U.S. Court of Appeals
for the District of Columbia Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Judge J. Michelle Childs, the nominee of President Biden for a position on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

I have been a practicing lawyer in the State of South Carolina since 1982. I served as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee during my time in the S.C. House of Representatives, and as a member of our Judicial Screening Commission that examined judicial qualifications. In 1998, I was elected Governor of South Carolina, and served in that capacity until 2003. I currently practice law with McGuireWoods, LLP, and serve as President and CEO of McGuireWoods Consulting, LLC.

I have known Judge Childs for over twenty years, and strongly believe she would be an outstanding member of the U.S. Court of Appeals. She first came to my attention after I

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was elected Governor in 1998, as she was a well-regarded young Labor and Employment lawyer in a prominent South Carolina law firm. I appointed her to serve as the Deputy Director of a cabinet agency, leading the division that oversaw all labor and employment issues in the state. After two successful years in that job, I nominated her for an administrative law position on the South Carolina Worker's Compensation Commission. This led to her election by the South Carolina legislature to serve as a Circuit Court Judge, followed by her selection by President Obama in 2010 to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the District of South Carolina.

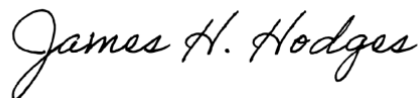
As a member of my Administration, and later as a judge, Judge Childs demonstrated great qualities- intelligence, maturity, humility, a strong ethical compass, an outstanding work ethic, and an ability to work well with others. I have observed her in the courtroom, and she consistently treats people well, giving litigants and lawyers a fair hearing. She also brings a great deal of real-world experience from her work as a lawyer, agency leader and community leader that have proven invaluable in her role on the bench.

One final comment- she was selected as an agency head by a Democratic Governor, and then chosen for the state court bench by a majority Republican legislature. This speaks well of her strong reputation for fairness and integrity across our state.

Judge Childs has excelled at every step in her career. She would continue her strong record of service as a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James H. Hodges". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James H. Hodges