

November 24, 2002

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Senator Grassley, and members of the Committee on the Judiciary:

I am honored to submit to you a letter of unqualified support for Amy Solomon for the position of Associate Attorney General at the Office of Justice Programs. Amy Solomon has dedicated her career to bettering the criminal justice system and all those the system touches. She demonstrates a deep commitment to science and research to inform operations as well as policy. Ms. Solomon is among the most genuine, kind, and trustworthy people I've experienced across my four decades working in criminal justice.

I first met Ms. Solomon nearly 30 years ago when she was a graduate student at the Harvard Kennedy School and I was *de facto* chief of staff at the Lowell (MA) Police Department. To the Lowell Police Safety First Project as her client for her master's thesis, she brought a blend of policy and data savvy that created the foundation for our community crime prevention and response strategies at a time when relying on data in policing was an emerging idea. Ms. Solomon continues to be on the cutting edge of innovation and policy and brings those innovations forward in each of her professional positions. Because of her reputation, Ms. Solomon was selected as one of only 30 professionals for a seat on the Harvard Kennedy School's Executive Session on Community Corrections. This convening spawned dozens of thought pieces related to reentry services.

At her core, Ms. Solomon is about getting the right thing done and making a difference in criminal justice. That focus on important and just accomplishments is fundamental to her as a manager -- a leader of people -- as much as in her thinking around policy. Her career is noteworthy for her efforts to improve the experiences of justice system stakeholders whether they be police executives, people who are incarcerated, corrections professionals, or the community at large that is impacted deeply by policy decisions around crime, safety, and justice.

Our careers have intersected repeatedly over those 30 years since our first encounter, and I remain honored to know Ms. Solomon and be influenced by her work. I wholeheartedly support her candidacy for this position. As a career criminal justice professional who has worked in victim services, prosecution, policing, and policy at a state agency, a research agency, and a nonprofit, I can think of no one better positioned and experienced for this role than Amy Solomon.

Very truly yours,

Christine M. Cole