

January 3, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Re: Support for Sharon Bradford Franklin, as nominee to be Chairman and Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write this letter in support of Sharon Bradford Franklin, the President's nominee to become the Chairman and Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board ("PCLOB").

As the first PCLOB Chairman, one of my first acts was to hire Ms. Franklin as its Executive Director. This provided me with the opportunity to observe her work on a daily basis for almost three years. What I saw was a tireless supporter of the agency's mission in overseeing counterterrorism efforts so that they balanced privacy and civil liberties with national security. In addition to participating in and directing staff to conduct investigations to support the Board's oversight and advice projects, she regularly engaged in constructive dialogue with the nation's intelligence agencies, Congressional staff, civil society, and academia. Her strong analytical skills and expertise on issues were demonstrated in her participation in the drafting of the agency's initial reports on the Telephone Records Program Conducted under Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act and the Surveillance Program Operated Pursuant to Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. All of the Board's 22 recommendations in those two reports were ultimately implemented in full or in part.

As Executive Director, Ms. Franklin also showed her ability to lead the agency on critical administrative matters of managing the budget, justifying budget requests to OMB, office relocation, hiring personnel and supervising staff. Since PCLOB, by statute, has Board Members of both parties, Ms. Franklin had the opportunity to demonstrate her ability to work with Board Members and their staff from both parties. This included helping the Board to achieve consensus on numerous issues and ensuring that there was healthy debate and discussion even where views differed.

Ms. Franklin's many years as an advocate for civil liberties, combined with her in-depth experience conducting oversight over, and working with, the intelligence community, make her an ideal choice to lead PCLOB.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Medine". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

David Medine