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**YMCA OF GREATER NEW
ORLEANS President & CEO**

Gordon R. Wadge

May 21, 2021

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

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

Honorable John N. Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable William M. Cassidy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Durbin, Grassley, Kennedy, and Cassidy:

God bless you in your service to our nation. Please know of our prayers for you.

I am writing today to respectfully ask for your support of Kenneth Polite's appointment to serve our nation as the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice.

I'm sure my Y colleagues in Louisiana, Illinois, Iowa and indeed throughout the US would be in support of Mr. Polite's nomination if they knew him as well as we do in New Orleans. He was born to a teenage mom and grew up in the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans. Despite a challenging childhood, he graduated valedictorian from De La Salle High School, a Christian Brothers School, focused on developing young leaders academically, spiritually and morally, imbuing within them a strong sense of community engagement, social conscience, and volunteerism. He carried these formative lessons along his academic path through Harvard and Georgetown. His academic credentials are stellar, but it is his character that makes him exemplary.

His staff at the US Attorney's Office in New Orleans had great respect for his leadership and his ability to quickly absorb information and make sound judgements

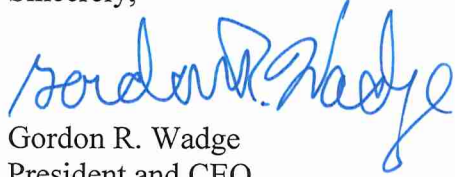
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while respecting the input of the team. He understands the issues of poverty and crime, having lost his half brother to violence. Mr. Polite and his wife, Dr. Florence Greer Polite, were always active in the New Orleans community. Mr. Polite volunteered his time with youth mentoring programs, violence prevention initiatives, reentry programs, public school community initiatives, and various non-profit boards.

I'm sure you have seen his full curriculum vitae. You should know that Mr. Polite works well with and respects people of every background. His long list of accomplishments credentials him for the role of Assistant Attorney General, but it is his strength of character that qualifies him.

Sincerely,



Gordon R. Wadge
President and CEO
YMCA of Greater New Orleans