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The Hon. Chuck Grassley
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee of the Judiciary II
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

Dear Chairman Grassley:

In 1981, I became one of the youngest judges in the State of Alabama at the age of 25. That same year, Deputy U.S. Attorney Jeff Sessions became the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, having been appointed by President Reagan. Not long after my appointment and election to a full term as the District Judge of Conecuh County, I met Jeff Sessions.

I was honored to be invited by Jeff to speak at the educational seminars that he hosted for all law enforcement in the Southern District of Alabama. Although it has now been decades since those conferences, I believe my assigned topic was domestic violence or juvenile justice. Thus began a lifetime of interaction with my friend, Jeff Sessions.

Having served as a trial judge for 12 years, I decided to run my first statewide race for a seat on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals. As the Democrat Party's nominee, I found myself on the campaign trail with the Republican nominee for Attorney General, Jeff Sessions. We were then as we are now, members of different parties, but always willing to assist each other as we attempted to constantly do the right thing for the people of our beloved state.

As a result of our elections in 1994, we both moved to Montgomery. General Sessions' job was to run the People's law firm, the Attorney General's Office of Alabama. I was elected as one of five criminal appellate judges who reviewed the appeals and filings in criminal cases of The Attorney General's Office. This was work in which he was able to apply his extensive experience as the Southern District 's top prosecutor and I drew upon my years spent on the trial bench.

Timeliness of rulings is important in the justice system, but it is essential in criminal cases. Huge backlogs in our state's forensics department had become a major factor in delay in the resolution of criminal charges. These delays injured both the State and individual defendants. Senator Sessions responded to this important issue by authoring the Paul Coverdell National Forensics Sciences Improvement Act of 2000. Sen. Sessions proved that he understood that "justice delayed is justice denied".

I was honored to be the first woman elected as Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in 2006. One of my major priorities during my tenure as Chief Justice was reform of our sentencing laws and practices. This emphasis was due to our unfortunate standing as the state with the most overcrowded and least funded prison system in the nation. Expansion of Model Drug Courts became a major focus. Sen. Sessions has continually demonstrated his understanding of the need for and his support for these data driven sentencing options which save lives and tax dollars. He has always responded when I called; party boundaries were never a consideration or factor in his decision.

It is for these reasons and many more that I write to offer my endorsement and support of the nomination of Sen. Jeff Sessions for Attorney General of The United States.

With warmest regards, I am

Most Sincerely,

Sue Bell Cobb

