



MICHAEL S. STEELE

LT. GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND
2003-2007

February 22, 2021

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: Letter in Support of Vanita Gupta, nominee for the United States
Associate Attorney General

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

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Vanita Gupta and her nomination to
become Associate Attorney General of the United States.

Ms. Gupta is well-regarded as one of the top lawyers in the country, and most recently
served as the President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human
Rights, one of the nation's preeminent civil rights organizations. In that role and even
prior to then, she had the reputation of someone who is principled, sharp, and honest.
She is known as a doer, and not merely a talker.

I came to know Ms. Gupta more personally through our work together on *The National
Task Force on Election Crises*, which was a cross-partisan group of over 50 experts in
election law, election administration, national security, cybersecurity, voting rights,
civil rights, technology, media, public health, and emergency response. As a former
Chairman of the Republican National Committee, and as a former Republican
Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, it was important to me that the Task Force operate
in a serious, nonpartisan manner to promote election integrity and fairness.

Through this important work, I came to deeply admire Ms. Gupta's passionate
advocacy and her steadfast commitment to the rule of law. She exhibited detailed
professionalism and was not driven by a partisan agenda or personal interest, but by a
common understanding that the integrity of elections is core to our American
democracy. She demonstrated humility, wisdom, sound judgment, and integrity --
characteristics that should be found in all our public servants.

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I believe she will bring this same character and approach as Associate Attorney General of the United States. I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee's favorable consideration of Ms. Gupta's nomination, and the Senate's confirmation of a good public servant.

Thank each of you for your consideration and continued leadership.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Steele" with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Steele