

# MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG

February 26, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

I am writing to express my strong support for the historic nomination of Kristen Clarke to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ms. Clarke represents the best of New York City. A daughter of immigrants who taught her to “make the most of every opportunity,” Ms. Clarke has spent her distinguished career doing exactly that – and devoting her life to expanding access to opportunity for others. Throughout her career, she has worked to protect civil rights and voting rights – as a lawyer for the NAACP, as Director of the Civil Rights Bureau for the New York State Attorney General, and as president of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Since the start of the pandemic, she has built on her commitment to equality by advocating for the government to release more data on the impact COVID-19 is having on America’s diverse communities. With the pandemic taking an especially tragic toll on Black Americans, more and better data is crucial to attacking racial and ethnic disparities – not just with this pandemic, but on other health issues, and economic, social, and environmental issues, too.

Ms. Clarke’s diversity of experience will serve her well at the Civil Rights Division, where the rate of new civil rights cases brought by the Department fell dramatically over the last four years, compared to the two previous administrations. As a nation of laws, enforcement is essential, as our history bears out. The ratification of the 14th Amendment was a momentous milestone for our nation, but for the next century, it was also a dead letter for many of the very people it was intended to protect. Ms. Clarke’s understanding of this history and determination to right it will serve our nation well.

I am confident she will be a vigorous and energetic enforcer of our nation’s laws in service of the American people. She well understands the essential truth my father taught me as a young boy: that discrimination against anyone threatens all of us. And she knows we cannot allow bias and bigotry to debase our society, our economy, or our institutions.

I strongly share her commitment to equal enforcement of the law and equal protection of civil rights, and I have great respect for the integrity, energy, and focus with which she has always brought to these issues. I am confident that she will bring that same sense of duty and drive to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor of New York City, 2002-2013  
Founder, Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies