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National Council of Negro Women, Inc. • ncnw.org • ncnwhq@ncnw.org
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February 11, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority 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 Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
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 the Honorable Merrick B. Garland, nominee to become the United States Attorney General

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

In my role as president and chair of the Board of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) I am writing on behalf of the NCNW, to strongly support the Honorable Merrick B. Garland to serve as Attorney General of the United States.

NCNW, an organization of organizations spread across the country connected through more than 2,000,000 women and men, with a mission to lead and empower women of African descent, their families, and their communities. It was founded in 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, a civil rights activist who served this country with distinction and vision.

Part of Dr. Bethune's vision nearly a century ago was, through the NCNW, "make a lasting contribution to all that is finest and best in America, to cherish and enrich her heritage of freedom and progress by working for the integration of all her people regardless of race, creed, or national origin, into her spiritual, social, cultural, civic,

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President & Chair Emerita: Dr. Dorothy Irene Height (1957-2010)

Chair of the Board and 7th President: Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole

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Chief Administrative Officer: Krystal Ramseur, MPA



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and economic life, and thus aid her to achieve the glorious destiny of a true and unfettered democracy.”

Integral to achieving such a beautiful vision of America is a fidelity to the rule of law and equal justice under the law. For far too long the law has not been applied equally, and America’s promise of equality has been eroded by hate, violence, discrimination, and racial inequality. Even today, we see the ugly seeds of racism and hate manifest themselves, in acts of violence that even find themselves in the hallowed halls of the U.S. Capitol.

This is why it is of vital importance that the very institution to enforce the law -- the United States Department of Justice -- be led with integrity, humility, and a deep understanding of history and the fight for equal justice under the law. We were heartened when Judge Garland laid out his vision for the Justice Department by recounting the fight for equality following the Civil War, when the Justice Department deployed considerable resources to ensure civil rights for vulnerable populations while those rights were under assault by militants. Judge Garland recounted that the promise of equal justice under law is at the core of the Justice Department’s principles, and the mission of ensuring racial equity in our justice system and combating violent extremism is foundational to upholding the rule of law in this country.

We fully agree with this assessment. And we fully support Judge Garland’s vision to pursue racial equity in our justice system. We believe he is the right person to carry out this vision at this time, along with the leadership team of Justice Department veterans who were nominated alongside him: Lisa Monaco, Vanita Gupta, and Kristen Clarke.

We urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to quickly process Judge Garland’s nomination, and for the Senate to swiftly confirm him.

Most Sincerely,

Johnnetta Cole

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