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March 8, 2021

Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to VOTE YES on Vanita Gupta's nomination as Associate Attorney General, the third-ranking position in the U.S. Department of Justice. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 117th Congress.

A fierce champion of civil rights, Ms. Gupta has devoted her career to advancing racial and social justice. She is currently president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and previously headed the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice. In that capacity, she led efforts to reform our criminal justice system, investigate unconstitutional policing practices, and enforce federal voting rights laws. She also worked tirelessly to protect LGBTQ and disability rights, prosecute hate crimes, and fight discrimination in education, housing, lending, and employment.

As head of the Civil Rights Division, Gupta engaged with a broad range of stakeholders and excelled at finding common ground among people and organizations with differing views. Her skills and experience make her eminently qualified to serve as Associate Attorney General at this pivotal juncture in U.S. history. Recent events ranging from the killing of George Floyd to the insurrection at the Capitol underscore the need for the federal government to once again take the lead in enforcing civil rights laws to fulfill America's promise of equal justice under law.

We urge you to VOTE YES on Vanita Gupta's nomination as Associate Attorney General.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association