

June 14, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

We write in enthusiastic support of the confirmation of Rachel Bloomekatz to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. We are a group of parents from Ohio who were represented by Ms. Bloomekatz in *Gabbard v. Madison Local School District*. We were overjoyed and incredibly proud when we learned of Ms. Bloomekatz's nomination to the federal bench, because we cannot think of anyone more deserving. In our view, Ms. Bloomekatz embodies all the qualities of a successful judge – she is immensely intelligent, patient, empathetic and fair-minded.

We have known Ms. Bloomekatz for approximately four years. In mid-2018, our local school district decided to arm teachers without providing the school's parents with critical information about how the teachers would be trained and how the policy would be implemented. While we support legal gun ownership and some of us are gun owners, we were all concerned about the lack of appropriate training for armed staff, as well as the lack of transparency that the school board showed in coming to this important decision. Luckily, we were introduced to Ms. Bloomekatz who took us on as clients. We were coming to her as part of a traumatized community that had experienced a school shooting two years prior. Ms. Bloomekatz was so thoughtful and considerate of the harm that we had all collectively faced. She patiently listened to our concerns about safety and transparency and devised a plan to get us the answers we needed.

Over the following four years, Ms. Bloomekatz would prove to be a dedicated and immensely capable attorney. At every step of the process, she listened carefully to our concerns, she would fill us in on the status of the case, lay out our options and attentively answer our questions no matter how late into the night our meeting lasted. She always kept our need for transparency at the front of her mind, and as a result, the school district was required to turn over many documents that had previously been kept secret. After she argued the case, we were able to win our case in both the court of appeals and ultimately the Supreme Court of Ohio.

In addition to her brilliant legal mind, we think that Ms. Bloomekatz has all the intangibles to make a wonderful judge. She is kind, attentive and devoted. She is the kind of judge any person would be lucky to have as a judge in their case, because she listens, is determined to be fair, and treats everyone with respect. We could see that in the way she treated everyone involved in our case.

In our opinion, Ms. Bloomekatz would make a fantastic judge, who would ably and proudly represent the state of Ohio on the federal bench. We appreciate your consideration of our views.

Respectfully,

Erin Gabbard  
Ben Adams  
Dallas Robson  
Aimee Robson