

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chair  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510

Re: Statement for the Record in Support of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination to the Supreme Court of the United States

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and distinguished members of the Committee:

Physicians for Reproductive Health (PRH) is a physician-led national advocacy organization working to ensure access to abortion care and equitable, comprehensive reproductive health care. Our network includes physicians of all specialties from across the country, seeing patients from all 50 states, committed to meeting the needs of the patients we serve. We submit this statement for the record in strong support of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination to the Supreme Court of the United States.

As a network of physicians, we recognize that law and policy is intimately tied to our ability to live our lives with dignity and security. Judge Jackson is one of our nation's brightest legal minds and is eminently qualified to serve on the United States Supreme Court. She brings a deep understanding of the laws of this country, particularly how they can be used to reinforce systems of oppression and disproportionately impact people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, people who are immigrants, and people who have low incomes.

Judge Jackson is a dedicated public servant with significant legal experience and a staunch defender of civil and constitutional rights. Prior to becoming a federal judge, Judge Jackson served as Assistant Special Counsel, Commissioner, and Vice-Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission. She worked on bipartisan reforms to federal sentencing guidelines that disproportionately harm Black and Brown people, and represented people who otherwise could not afford to be represented before the Washington, D.C., Circuit as an Assistant Federal Public Defender. As a network of physicians, we understand deeply the impact of the nation's carceral system and its disproportionate impact on the communities of color for whom we care. Judge Jackson's experience and understanding is essential to bolstering the rights of everyone. Importantly, if confirmed, Judge Jackson would follow in the footsteps of former Justice Thurgood Marshall – the last Supreme Court Justice with notable experience defending defendants in criminal cases.

Judge Jackson is an extremely respected jurist who has authored over 600 decisions during her considerable judicial service. Her record has shown careful consideration and deep understanding of the law and facts of each case, including ones that touched on reproductive health care and education, labor rights, and disability rights. For example, in *Healthy Futures of Texas v. HHS* and *Policy and Research v. HHS*, Judge Jackson blocked the government's unlawful attempt to terminate federal teen pregnancy prevention funding to non-profits. It is clear from this case, among many others, that Judge Jackson is committed to bringing a thoughtful, methodological approach to the cases before her and has a deep understanding of the impact of her decisions.

Judge Jackson will make long overdue history by bringing diverse professional and personal experiences to the Supreme Court. As the first Black woman to be nominated, and hopefully confirmed, to the Court she will bring her lived experiences and understanding of how critical and lifesaving it is to have equal justice under the law for all. It is essential that her confirmation process be conducted with the utmost respect.

While we recognize our courts and legal systems will never be able to solve all of our problems – in this moment when the Supreme Court is poised to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and potentially gut the entire legal framework for abortion access in this country, it is essential that the Supreme Court better reflect the makeup of those who are most impacted by attacks on abortion and other fundamental rights.

Physicians for Reproductive Health enthusiastically offers its support of the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court and urges the Committee to approve her nomination quickly. Should you have any questions, please reach out to MiQuel Davies, Assistant Director of Public Policy at [mdavies@prh.org](mailto:mdavies@prh.org).

Sincerely,

*Dr. Kristyn Brandi*

Dr. Kristyn Brandi, MD, MPH

Board Chair of Physicians for Reproductive Health