

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority 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 Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

February 25, 2021

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

As a group of reform-minded prosecutors, we write to express our support for Vanita Gupta as Associate Attorney General for the Department of Justice (DOJ). Gupta has a track record dedicated to criminal justice reform and racial justice. We wholeheartedly support her appointment.

Gupta began her career working at NAACP LDF, where she helped uncover a drug arrest scandal. In Tulia, Texas, Gupta highlighted that 10% of the black population in this small town had been arrested on drug charges on the testimony of one corrupt officer. She led the battle to reverse their convictions and helped her clients gain a settlement of around \$6 million. Gupta's commitment to racial justice continued, as she worked with European allies to support members of the Roma community who were suffering discrimination.

Gupta then moved to the ACLU where she led the organizations criminal justice efforts, culminating in the organization's embrace of "Smart Justice", entailing the elimination of mandatory minimum sentences, increased reentry opportunities, and a public health approach to drug use. She also successfully sued a private prison in Texas, ending the detention of immigrant children there.

When President Obama nominated her to head the Civil Rights Division of DOJ in 2014, she brought her reform-oriented mindset to the agency. She led the investigations into the police departments in Baltimore, Ferguson, and Chicago, highlighting civil rights violations that would lead to consent decrees. She challenged transphobic laws in North Carolina, and led the charge against voter disenfranchisement.

As head of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Gupta defended communities from the onslaught of the Trump Administration. She successfully defeated the Trump Administration's efforts to undermine immigrant rights via the United States Census. She also worked with allies on the passage of the First Step Act, ensuring that the bill had sentencing reform provisions.

Ms. Gupta will be a strong ally to the progressive prosecutor movement. She is passionate about justice, fighting against inequity, and reforming our broken criminal justice system. We endorse her for the position of Associate Attorney General and look forward to working with her.

Sincerely,

Marilyn J. Mosby, Baltimore City State's Attorney

Larry Krasner, Philadelphia District Attorney

Kim Foxx, Cook County State's Attorney

Rachael Rollins, Suffolk County District Attorney

Chesa Boudin, San Francisco District Attorney

George Gascon, Los Angeles District Attorney

John Creuzot, Dallas County District Attorney

Wesley Bell, St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney

Satana Deberry, District Attorney for Durham, North Carolina

Kim Gardner, Circuit Attorney for the City of St. Louis, Missouri

Stephanie Morales, Commonwealth's Attorney for Portsmouth, VA

Lynneice O. Washington, Jefferson County District Attorney - Bessemer Cutoff Division

Aisha Braveboy, State's Attorney, Prince George's County, MD

Sherry Boston, Dekalb County District Attorney