

Riverside Educational Center

After School Tutoring and Enrichment

September 15, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Re: Gordon P. Gallagher, Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

Judge Gordon Gallagher has received a recommendation to serve as a judge in the U.S. District Court of the District of Colorado. We are writing this letter of support for his appointment based on his character, temperament, and the work and impact he has had on the Riverside Educational Center and our community as a whole.

Riverside Educational Center (REC) Mission Statement:

Riverside Educational Center believes that every student, regardless of race, disability, socioeconomic status, or other barriers, deserves an equal opportunity in life. To this end, REC provides after-school tutoring and extracurricular activities for qualifying Mesa County students to improve academic achievement and foster positive social and emotional development.

Our organization launched in 2006 with the belief that after-school programs engage youth, build connections, support families, and change our community for the better. REC began with the aim of creating a safe haven for structured after-school tutoring and quality enrichment activities in Riverside, a primarily low-income, Hispanic neighborhood in Grand Junction. We now have sites in 15 local schools and expect to serve more than 700 students this year, providing academic support and enrichment as well as a connection to services in the community.

Gordon has been involved with REC for many years in a volunteer capacity. He has been a board member since June 2020, was selected as the board Vice President June 2021, and is the chair of REC's Strategic Planning Committee.

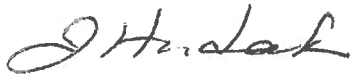
Gordon was pursued as a REC board member because of his previous involvement with the Hispanic community and the Community Food Bank, and his interest in having an impact on the students and families who need it most. Gordon is reliable, engaged, thoughtful, and shows genuine care and concern for those REC serves (50% Caucasian, 48% Hispanic, 2% other. 80% receiving free/reduced lunch).

As chair of REC's Strategic Planning Committee, which focuses on goals and long-term planning for the organization, Gordon was instrumental in the recent update and revision of REC's Inclusivity Statement. This document, approved by the board January 2021, reiterates the active commitment to equity, respect, and access that has guided our organization since its founding.

Having known Gordon for over 15 years, we can attest that he demonstrates this same commitment in his personal advocacy. He is kind, respectful, and hardworking. He is a father of three, and he and his wife have been very actively involved in raising educated and involved children who also contribute to our community. All three volunteered at REC in high school.

Please visit our website, www.rec4kids.com, if you would like to read REC's inclusivity statement or learn more about the work to which Gordon contributes. As community members striving alongside Gordon to empower deserving youth and families, we genuinely hope you will see the benefit and impact of his efforts and consider appointing him to the U.S. District Court of the District of Colorado.

Most Sincerely,



Joy Hudak
Executive Director



Kelly Reuss,
REC Board of Directors, Chair

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