

May 21, 2021

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

Re: Letter in Support of the Anne Milgram, Nominee for the Administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

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

I write in strong and unqualified support of Anne Milgram, Nominee for the Administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”).

I am the former chief of the Camden County and Camden Police Departments in Camden, New Jersey, and a former president of the Police Executive Research Forum in Washington, D.C. Having worked closely with Ms. Milgram during her tenure as the former Attorney General for the State of New Jersey, as well as on other efforts over the past fourteen years, I am deeply familiar with Ms. Milgram as a leader, a colleague, a trusted advisor, and a friend. She is an exceptional leader who makes thoughtful and insightful decisions in managing law enforcement and safeguarding the public welfare, and is perfectly situated for the task of leading the DEA.

Between 2007-2010, Ms. Milgram oversaw the Camden Police Department through the Attorney General’s supersession authority. In 2008, she appointed me to be the Camden Chief of Police. In that role, I worked often with Ms. Milgram. I had been on the Camden police force for nearly fourteen years and knew and understood the complexities of crimes that occurred there. Camden was on record pace that year for murders, but Ms. Milgram immediately identified the needs of the department and community and started instituting changes consistent with protecting the public and ensuring the public’s safety. She consistently asked officers to get out from behind their desks, engage with the community, and deescalate potentially dangerous situations.

Ms. Milgram had a community-driven focus to make the streets safer. I worked alongside her to increase police outreach in communities, and we encouraged police to have neighborhood barbeques or visit local ice cream trucks. Ms. Milgram had bipartisan support for her

policing initiatives, and she implemented practices based on data, technology, and evidence to effect appropriate and useful reforms within the Camden police department. Through this work, Ms. Milgram was able to instill the public trust and assurance back into Camden's police force. Under her leadership, and using a data-driven and evidence-based approach, we were able to transform the Camden police department and ultimately reduce violent crimes by more than 40% in one year. By our count, we saved 37 lives that Camden was on track to lose in that single year.

Ms. Milgram also understood the needs of the law enforcement officers in Camden. The first time I ever had a one-on-one meeting with Ms. Milgram was in March of 2008 when a police officer had been shot multiple times in the line of duty. Ms. Milgram rushed to the hospital to see the officer, to speak to the officer's family, and to be briefed on the incident by the command staff. Ms. Milgram understood the sacrifice that officers make daily in protecting the public. Throughout her tenure as the State Attorney General, she showed a deep respect for the work the law enforcement officers did, and she worked closely with officers to proactively reduce violence in partnership with communities. She understood then, what many of us have learned during the past decade, that it is critical for the public to feel safe interacting with – and cooperating with – the police.

I also worked closely with Ms. Milgram and with the DEA, HIDTA, the county prosecutor's office, and the United States Attorney's Office to conduct investigations into violence and drug trafficking. Ms. Milgram was always an attentive listener to all stakeholders and demonstrated remarkable and diligent leadership in bringing together diverse law enforcement agencies under the single mission of improving safety in the city of Camden.

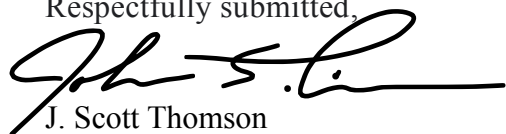
Through her steadfast efforts, Ms. Milgram gained the respect of law enforcement and the community. She showed incredible initiative, developed a creative and data-driven approach to public safety as Attorney General, and improved relationships with the community.

Ms. Milgram is now nominated to oversee the DEA. I strongly believe, and have no doubt, that she will do so effectively and in a respectful manner for both law enforcement and the public at large.

I urge the Committee to quickly process Ms. Milgram's nomination and for the Senate to quickly confirm her. She has exemplified that she is an experienced, responsible leader who understands, implements, and prioritizes policies and practices that permit law enforcement to serve our citizens more effectively, all while showing a deep respect for the law and the people who enforce it. For these reasons, Ms. Milgram is the right choice to lead the DEA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Scott Thomson