

# National Action Network



Rev. Al Sharpton, *President & Founder*

Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, *Chairman*

February 12, 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 U.S. Attorney General nominee the Honorable Merrick B. Garland

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

On behalf of the National Action Network (NAN) and the Rev. Al Sharpton, we fully support Honorable Merrick B. Garland, President Biden's nominee to become the United States Attorney General.

National Action Network is a civil rights organization with chapters throughout the United States, which works to advance a modern civil rights agenda to pursue a vision for America for one standard of justice, decency, and equal opportunity for all people. Issues under DOJ's purview are a top urgent priority for our community and organization. NAN has been at the forefront in the effort to reform our criminal justice system into one that is more just and equal and has called for protected voting rights, police reform, and impacted family assistance. Last August, we convened over 200,000 people on these issues for the Commitment March on Washington co-chaired by Rev. Al Sharpton, Martin Luther King, III and impacted families including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner and more.

The United States Department of Justice, led by the Attorney General, is integral in promoting equal justice under the law in this country. The Justice Department not only enforces federal criminal and civil rights laws, but it also serves as legal authority for the entire executive branch. Including defending federal programs in Court, representing the executive branch in the Supreme Court, providing legal counsel to federal agencies, and providing justice-related assistance to states and local governments.

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For the Justice Department to be effective in this country, not only must it promote the rule of law, but it must always act with integrity and independence, to promote fairness and justice in courts all over America. It must also squarely confront racial injustice and promote the civil rights of all Americans.

Judge Garland has pledged to prioritize civil rights and ensure racial equity in our justice system, keeping with a deep and abiding reverence for the rule of law to ensure that the law is applied fairly and equally. As a judge on the powerful D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, his record speaks to his commitment to protect voting rights, the rights of the disabled, and those seeking discrimination claims based on their national origin. He has championed access to justice and was a proponent for developing pro bono work for federal government lawyers. He has been a consensus-builder throughout his esteemed career. Before he became a judge, he helped guide the country through one of the most horrific domestic terrorist attacks in our country's history in Oklahoma City. He is a leader who helped this nation heal. And he understands that this moment in our history similarly requires healing; and for the Justice Department to vigorously protect the civil rights of marginalized communities.

We urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to process Judge Garland's nomination quickly. I similarly urge the entire Senate to confirm him to become the 86th Attorney General of the United States.

Very Truly Yours,

Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder & President, National Action Network

Ebonie Riley, Washington, DC Bureau Chief, National Action Network