



THIRD WAY

April 5, 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

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

After four years of neglect and gross mismanagement during the Trump administration, Third Way is delighted that President Biden has chosen someone as supremely qualified as Kristen Clarke to breathe life back into the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. Kristen is a brilliant and passionate public servant, who has shown her deep commitment to equal justice through her work as a federal prosecutor, years of work at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and her leadership as President and Executive Director of the National Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Kristen will bring to DOJ the pragmatic, moderate sensibility that has characterized her entire professional career. Though this nomination has, unfortunately, become somewhat politicized, the charges are absurd. As anyone who has worked with Kristen would attest, calling her temperament or values 'extreme' or 'radical' is self-evidently baseless.

Notably, if confirmed, she will be the first Black woman to serve in this role, further underscoring the wisdom of this choice at a moment when real progress on racial justice is a moral, substantive, and political imperative. Seldom in our recent history has this post held more importance than now, and rarely have we had a nominee for this position with more promise than Kristen Clarke.

All of us at Third Way look forward to her swift confirmation and to the vital work she will accomplish leading DOJ's Civil Rights office.

Sincerely,

Matt Bennett
Executive Vice President for Public Affairs