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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 Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Sarah Geraghty to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Southern Center for Human Rights, where Sarah has worked for nearly two decades and currently serves in the role of Senior Counsel. As a board member, I have had the opportunity to get to know Sarah well over the past five years and to observe first hand both the quality of her advocacy and her personal character. Based on those observations, and on my thirty-five years of experience litigating in the federal courts including as Solicitor General in the United States Department of Justice, I can say with complete confidence that Sarah has the experience, acumen and character to be an exemplary federal district judge.

Sarah's educational and professional accomplishments make clear that she is fully qualified to serve on the federal bench. She excelled at University of Michigan Law School and School of Social Work, receiving Juris Doctor and Master of Social Work degrees. She served as a law clerk for the Honorable James B. Zagel, on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Following her clerkship, Sarah worked at both the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the Office of the Appellate Defender in New York. Sarah has spent the majority of the last two decades at SCHR, first as Staff Attorney (2003), followed by Managing Attorney (2015), and most recently, Senior Counsel (2020). Sarah currently serves as an adjunct professor of law at Emory University School of Law and a part-time instructor at Georgia State University College of Law. The consistent thread in Sarah's professional work is her commitment to equal justice and equal dignity for all under the law.

Sarah's commitment to these principles is especially well illustrated by her recent successful efforts in the case of *Edwards v. Red Hills Cmty. Probation*. Mr. Edwards had been jailed because he could not afford to pay \$250 fine for burning leaves in his yard without a permit and another plaintiff had been detained at the courthouse because she could not afford to pay \$150. As a result of Sarah's work in this case, the Governor's Criminal Justice Reform Council in Georgia recommended significant changes to the state's misdemeanor probation system and the Georgia Assembly adopted those recommendations—putting an end to unjust incarceration of people who commit minor offenses but are too poor to pay the resulting fines.

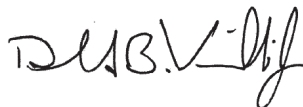
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Most importantly, Sarah possesses the integrity, strength of character and sound judgment that make her ideally suited to the judicial role. She is open-minded and fair. She treats clients, colleagues and adversaries in court with respect and courtesy. She litigates aggressively to advance her clients' interests, as any lawyer should, but she is in no sense an ideologue. She is always able to understand the other side's point of view and to engage seriously with it. She has a great deal of experience with federal district court litigation, both civil and criminal, so she will bring to the bench a deep knowledge of how cases proceed in federal court. She is a brilliant and careful lawyer who has won important victories for her clients, often by persevering against long odds. I am certain that lawyers who appear before her as a judge will—win or lose—feel that they received a fair shake. In short, she will bring great credit to the federal bench and to our shared commitment to equal justice and the rule of law.

I urge her swift confirmation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.B.V. Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Donald B. Verrilli, Jr.