

Crime Victims/Survivors and Victim Services Professionals Support for Steve Dettelbach to Serve as Director of the ATF

May 14, 2022

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: Support Confirmation of Steve Dettelbach to Serve as Director, USDOJ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Dear Senators Schumer, McConnell, Durbin and Grassley:

We the undersigned crime survivors and victim/survivor service professionals offer our strong support for Steve Dettelbach to be confirmed as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

As a career prosecutor, Mr. Dettelbach has a stellar history of combatting violent crime, partnering with communities on effective crime prevention and reentry programs, and promoting community safety. As the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, he led the Defending Childhood Initiative to protect children exposed to violence program from a public health, mental health and treatment perspective. He has served with distinction in four Administrations – two Democrat and two Republican – and has received many honors for his work as a career prosecutor.

Across his entire career, Mr. Dettelbach has led Federal, national and state efforts to fight domestic terrorism, violent extremism and violent crimes motivated by hate and bias, including cases brought against a white supremacist for trying to burn down a predominantly African American church; a man targeting Jewish and African American community leaders; a man prosecuted for arson against the largest Mosque in Northwest Ohio; and a case that was, at the time, the largest prosecution of hate crime acts of religious violence in the Amish community. He has also been a national leader in the fight against human trafficking, having personally prosecuted an unprecedented number of human trafficking cases in Ohio. His sensitivity to the needs of hate crime survivors is evidenced by his selection by the Anti-Defamation League to represent victims of hate crimes in court proceedings in an ADL pilot program.

Mr. Dettelbach is proud that ATF has a strong victim/witness program that provides support and services to crime survivors across the Nation, particularly in cases involving mass violence and terrorism. His support for this important program will go far to ensure that *the entire Bureau* treats victims and survivors with dignity, and provides them the assistance they need and deserve.

Mr. Dettelbach's strong support from many law enforcement and prosecution professionals, including the Major County Sheriffs of America and the Federal Law Enforcement Association, is testament to the strength of this nomination.

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Mr. Dettelbach is eminently qualified to lead ATF in a time when both violent crime and hate crimes are on the rise. His concern for and commitment to serve crime victims and survivors are important factors in our support for his nomination.

We urge the U.S. Senate to confirm Mr. Dettelbach as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Sincerely,

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