



March 23, 2022

Dear Senator:

On behalf of YWCA USA, a network of nearly 200 local associations in 45 states and the District of Columbia, **I write to you today to express our strong support to the confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court of the United States.** With our mission and values at the forefront, we urge you to vote 'yes' when this confirmation comes to a vote.

At all times, YWCA has been on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Implicit in this mission are values of integrity, fundamental fairness, representative democracy, and procedural justice. Moreover, in all matters of national leadership, YWCA is concerned first and foremost with the needs of those who are at greatest risk of marginalization, including women, people of color, immigrants and refugees, survivors of violence and abuse, the LGBTQ+ community, individuals with disabilities, and others whose rights and safety are all too often threatened.

In keeping with our procedures for evaluating nominations to the Supreme Court, YWCA applied its nonpartisan lens to analyze Judge Jackson's judicial record, legal writings, and public statements, including her published opinions. Based upon this analysis and **we have determined that Judge Jackson's established record and judicial philosophy stand in alignment to the policies, rights, and values that are embedded in YWCA's mission and the communities we serve.**

For over 160 years, YWCAs have been on the frontlines advocating for the rights of women, girls, and marginalized communities. Today, in concert with those values, we are confident that the depth and breadth of Judge Jackson's expertise and principles would add much needed perspective and glaringly missing diversity to the Supreme Court. Judge Jackson's case record and public statements demonstrate that her personal and professional values are aligned with the values embedded in YWCA's mission and policy agenda, particularly within the areas of health and reproductive freedom, gender-based violence, racial justice and civil rights, disability justice, and immigrations arenas.

Of note, we are particularly pleased to see deep alignment in the areas of:

- Immigrant rights and the ability to ensure those seeking safety and opportunity in the United States are treated with dignity and respect;
- Disability rights and the ability to remove barriers and uphold opportunities equitable participation for all;
- Health and safety and the ability to ensure access to quality, affordable health care;
- Reproductive rights and the right of an individual to make their own health care decisions, including access to abortion;
- Fair, safe, and inclusive workplaces including protecting the rights of all working people to collectively bargain.

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Similarly, Judge Jackson's legal decisions and public statements have also demonstrated an unwavering commitment toward constitutional values including due process and the right to counsel as well as upholding the rule of law, leaving us with strong reason to support the confirmation of Judge Jackson to the Supreme Court.

Judge Jackson brings to the table an impressive legal career, a commitment to civil rights, and a stellar reputation for being an outstanding, fair-minded arbiter of justice. If confirmed, Judge Jackson will be the first justice with any significant criminal defense experience since the retirement of Justice Thurgood Marshall in 1991, bringing much needed depth and experience to the Supreme Court. She would also be the only Supreme Court justice to have ever served as a public defender. Our highest court must reflect the diversity of the legal profession as well as experiences, confirming that Judge Jackson's is greatly needed on the Supreme Court.

The nomination of Judge Jackson also marks a historic milestone for Black women in our country. Since its inception more than 200 years ago, the Supreme Court has lacked both gender and racial diversity. If confirmed, Judge Jackson would be the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court, following only three justices of color and five justices who were women. Black women are the backbone of American democracy and for too long, have been overlooked, ignored, and undervalued for positions in our judicial system. The confirmation of Judge Jackson marks a critical and long overdue shift toward a Supreme Court that looks more like the people it is charged to serve. We understand that the road to justice cannot and will not be paved solely by the confirmation of Judge Jackson, but this is a critical step toward uprooting gender and racial inequalities that are so deeply embedded within our institutions.

Finally, Judge Jackson's legal reputation and record as a fair and impartial jurist that has earned Judge Jackson high praise and recognition across party lines. **She has been confirmed with bipartisan support by the Senate three times** throughout her career, reaffirming the Judge is eminently qualified for this role.

The Supreme Court is the ultimate arbiter of our most cherished and constitutionally protected rights and a vote to confirm Judge Jackson would uphold these rights. At a time when our country finds ourselves in the middle of prolonged pandemic, global upheaval, and a historical moment of reckoning in the fight for racial equity, we must confirm a Justice to the Supreme Court whose record would maintain our decades of progress and the livelihoods of many Americans. **We urge you to vote 'yes' and confirm Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court.**

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact Pam Yuen, YWCA USA Director of Government Relations, at [pyuen@ywca.org](mailto:pyuen@ywca.org) or 202-559-7022, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Margaret Mitchell  
CEO, YWCA USA