

March 17, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin Senate Judiciary Committee – Chair 7011 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley Senate Judiciary Committee – Ranking Member 135 Hat Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Re: Center for Disability Rights Support letter for the Confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

The Center for Disability Rights, Inc. (CDR) sends this letter of support for the Confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). Judge Jackson is eminently qualified and highly educated a graduate of Harvard University and Harvard Law School. Her distinguished career is well known and documented. Having her confirmed as an associate justice in SCOTUS will create a Court that is reflective of the people of this country.

Judge Jackson's opinions have demonstrated an understanding of the rights of people with disabilities. The American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) will be 32 years old in July and yet we as a country continue to have issues and concerns with implementing this historic civil right. The work of Judge Jackson on disability cases shows her vast knowledge of people's civil and human rights. It is reflective of her reputation as a fair-minded jurist.

Just a few cases:

- <u>Pierce v. District of Columbia</u> (September 2015), Judge Jackson held that prison officials had acted with "deliberate indifference" to an incarcerated deaf individual's need for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- In Equal Rights Center v. Uber Technologies, (March 2021) she denied Uber's motion to dismiss allegations that their wheelchair accessible service is significantly less reliable than its standard service, a discrepancy which would violate the ADA

 In United States v. LaVance Greene, (February 2021) she granted compassionate release to an elderly incarcerated individual who had served nearly 50 years of his sentence, demonstrated his rehabilitation while incarcerated, and suffered from several serious medical conditions

Judge Jackson's stellar career proves that she will provide fair-minded jurisprudence once she is confirmed for the Supreme Court. She uses her education and experience to thoughtfully consider cases that come before her. This is a historic nomination as the Supreme Court has had 115 justices but never has there been a Black woman to serve. As a Black woman working in disability justice, it is an honor and blessing to witness her historic nomination and now the confirmation process.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is undeniably qualified to serve on the highest court in the land. CDR urges the Senate to confirm Judge Jackson to the Supreme Court. If you have any questions please contact L. Dara Baldwin, MPA, Director of National Policy at dara.baldwin@ncdr.us

Sincerely,

L. Dara Baldwin, MPA Director of National Policy

Center for Disability Rights, Inc. is an unique fusion of advocacy and supportive services. CDR is a disability led, not-for-profit Corporation. We provide services to people with disabilities and seniors within the framework of an Independent Living Model which promotes independence of people with all types of disabilities, enabling choice in living setting, full access to the community, and control of their life.

CDR works for national, state, and local systemic change to advance the rights of people with disabilities by supporting direct action, coalition building, community organizing, policy analysis, litigation, training for advocates, and community education. CDR advocates for the full integration, independence, and civil rights of people with disabilities.