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March 8, 2021

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to VOTE YES on Judge Merrick Garland's nomination as U.S. Attorney General, in which capacity he will be responsible for ensuring the fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans—in the words of Thomas Jefferson, "the most sacred of the duties of government." Votes on this nomination may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 117th Congress.

Judge Garland is known for his integrity and independence, which will be vital for restoring the public's trust in the Department of Justice. He is also a consensus builder. At the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, where he has been an appellate judge for over 23 years, he collaborates with other judges to come to unanimous rulings that rarely draw dissents.

He is especially well equipped to lead the investigation into the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol by white supremacists and other extremists seeking to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power fundamental to the rule of law. As a prosecutor in the Department of Justice, Judge Garland oversaw the federal response to the Oklahoma City bombing that sought to spark a revolution and topple our government—an experience he called "the most important thing I have ever done in my life."

At this critical juncture, America needs an Attorney General who is committed to protecting the civil rights of everyone, particularly Black, Brown and Indigenous groups, and to reforming our flawed criminal legal system. We need an Attorney General who is committed to ending all forms of discrimination; addressing white supremacy and hate violence; and advancing racial, gender, disability, ethnic, religious, immigrant, and LGBTQ+ justice.

By temperament and experience, Judge Garland is eminently qualified to fulfill those roles. We strongly urge you to confirm his nomination as U.S. Attorney General.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association