



March 20, 2022

Dear Senators,

Ujima, Inc.: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community (Ujima, Inc.) and the National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA) write to express our support for the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first African American woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court. Ujima, Inc. and SCESA are leading national organization addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, and community violence with a specific focus on Communities of Color. We collaborate to advance our missions through research, public awareness, community engagement, and resource development.

Judge Jackson's nomination represents a watershed moment in our nation's history that transcends politics and reflects the commitment of our nation to a fair and just system of law and the diversity of the American people. Paul Ryan, former GOP Speaker of the House, noted that he and Judge Jackson's "politics may differ, but my praise for Ketanji's intellect, for her character, and for her integrity, is unequivocal." Judge Jackson's exemplary history of legal service also marks the first time we have a Supreme Court nominee with federal public defender experience. This is significant given the volume of indigent, *pro se* defendants in our legal system. Her service as a public defender, a private practice lawyer, a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, a federal district court judge, and a federal circuit court judge is unparalleled. Her nomination has broad support from judicial colleagues, who praise her integrity and commitment to the even-handed application of justice. For example, Judge Thomas Griffith, formerly of the D.C. Circuit, said he "always respected her careful approach, extraordinary judicial understanding, and collegial manner, three indispensable traits for success as a Justice on the Supreme Court."

Judge Jackson's legal acumen also brings a unique and necessary perspective to the Supreme Court that has been woefully underrepresented. Diverse representation in our courts shapes laws that consider the lived experiences of Americans and underscore the value etched above the entrance of the Supreme Court, "Equal Justice Under Law". Black women are disparately impacted by crime, overrepresented in the criminal legal system, at greater risk of being victims of crime, and underrepresented in civil matters. Having Judge Ketanji Brown

Jackson as a sitting Supreme Court Justice sends a clear message that our nation is actively working towards equal protection under the law for ALL of our citizens.

Ujima, Inc. and SCESA strongly support her nomination.

Sincerely,



Karma Cottman
Executive Director/CEO
Ujima, Inc



Condencia Brade
Executive Director
SCESA