



September 15, 2021

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee 224
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee 152
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: NOMINATION OF RACHAEL ROLLINS TO US ATTORNEY-DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, I would like to voice my support for Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins for the position of United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

Founded in 1973, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) is the oldest comprehensive rape crisis center of its kind in New England and provides free and confidential services to survivors of sexual assault, harassment, and abuse ages 12 and up, as well as their loved ones. Our mission is to end sexual violence through healing and social change. BARCC's services include hotline crisis intervention and medical accompaniment to local area hospitals, as well as clinical, case management, and legal advocacy services. We also work with survivors who are incarcerated. Additionally, BARCC is dedicated to community outreach work that focuses on education and prevention as forms of ending sexual violence.

Sexual violence remains a serious problem in our communities, and addressing it often requires a multifaceted approach and commitment with various community partners,

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governmental entities, and other organizations. As the chief law enforcement officer in Suffolk County, District Attorney Rollins has played a pivotal role in these efforts. Throughout the past several years, we have been able to build a relationship with her office staff through multiple initiatives that impact the survivors that we work with every day. We have witnessed her ability to lead and take action, and we believe that she would make important contributions as the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

Our interactions with DA Rollins' leadership have been most clearly demonstrated through our work with her staff throughout the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Together, we have collaborated on various groups and projects that support survivors. Currently, the Suffolk County DA's Office serves on an advisory board to the Access to Forensic Information (AFI) project, which is a Massachusetts-based initiative and website managed by BARCC that provides information to survivors, as well as opportunities for provider training, collaboration, and referrals. AFI ensures that survivors of sexual violence have accurate forensic information and services after an assault and that service providers are well-informed about forensic resources and options. Thanks to active involvement with the advisory board, DA Rollins and her office have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to ensure that survivors receive necessary resources that aid them in making well-informed decisions with regards to sexual assault evidence collection.

Additionally, the Suffolk DA's Office has been a member along with BARCC on the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Adolescent Task Force, which began as a forum to improve multidisciplinary response and which leads action for adolescent survivors of sexual assault. The Suffolk DA's Office provided a prosecutor to serve on the task force who made important contributions, such as holding a series of multidisciplinary state-wide conferences and producing an Adolescent Sexual Assault Responder handbook that is used for responding to adolescent survivors of sexual assault. It is clear from their participation on the task force that the Suffolk DA's Office has demonstrated an understanding of and commitment to the unique needs of adolescent survivors.

Furthermore, DA Rollins has been an ally on matters related to immigrant survivors. We have been impressed by DA Rollins's previous efforts to address and advocate immigrant



safety in the courts. In 2019, joining the Middlesex DA, the Committee for Public Counsel Services, and the Chelsea Collaborative, DA Rollins succeeded in obtaining an injunction against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers, which significantly restricted their ability to make arrests inside of state courthouses. This injunction lifted barriers for people who do not have legal status—many of whom are survivors and BARCC clients—to go confidently to court to seek orders of protection or testify in criminal cases without the fear that ICE would arrest them. With regards to other immigration matters, we have had proactive and positive interactions with the Chief of the Child Protection Unit to issue U visa certifications to survivors who are minors.

Lastly we wish to emphasize that diversity, equity, and inclusion are critical and necessary considerations to determine any governmental appointment. As a woman of color who has led what has historically been a predominantly white law enforcement agency, DA Rollins's identity establishes her as a critical and necessary choice. Moreover, she is highly qualified for this role and would faithfully serve as U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. We believe that her determination, advocacy, and visibility are essential to leveraging equity for our communities.

We hope that you will confirm this nomination. Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Duane de Four
Interim Executive Director
The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center