

Children's Services of Roxbury

Strengthening Families across Massachusetts

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September 1, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
US Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Office #224 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of Children's Services of Roxbury (CSR) the largest African American lead organization in Massachusetts, I am delighted to submit this letter of support for Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins' nomination for United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. Operating in four cities across the Commonwealth, CSR employs over 400 people and serve 6,000 children and their families each year. Our services range from foster care and adoption, early care and education, mental health services, family stabilization, homelessness, and youth development.

From the moment DA Rollins took office, she reached out to partner with us to address the devastating traumas that the children we serve have experienced. The children and families we support are often victims of horrific abuses, compounded by poverty, lack of access and opportunity. DA Rollins recognizes the complexities of the traumas our families face and has made bold moves in her role as DA to support victims. She has decriminalized poverty and supported victims by partnering with agencies like ours to provide the supports people need to regain control of their lives and shift the social and economic inequities that often lead to crime.

In 2019, CSR presented DA Rollins with our "Trail Blazer Award", in recognition of her bold ideas that put a laser focus on violent crime and victim support, while simultaneously strengthening human services systems and networks to reduce some of the root causes of crime. Most recently, DA Rollins was selected to receive the "State Employee of the Year Award" from The Provider's Council, an association of community-based human services agencies in Massachusetts with more than 220 member organizations. This is the first time in its 48-year history that any District Attorney is being recognized in this way. DA Rollins is receiving this award because of her strategic approach of leveraging the power of her office with the expertise of those in the human service sector. She has forged true partnerships that honor victims and their families by ensuring they get the trauma-informed care they deserve, keeping communities safe, fostering healing, and reducing tension between law enforcement and the community.


As the former Undersecretary of Criminal Justice (2010-2015) in Governor Deval Patrick's Administration, I over saw the Department of Corrections, the Parole Board, and the Sex Offender Registry Board. During my tenure we worked on criminal justice reform, and prisoner reentry programs. We would often say "no entry is the best reentry program". Now, in my current role, and through our relationship with DA Rollin's office, we are working to prevent young people from entering the criminal justice system. DA Rollins has been instrumental in supporting our Youth and Police in Partnership Program (YPP). A collaboration between Children's Services of Roxbury, local law enforcement and the Boston Police Department, YPP was created to address the spike in crime and violence that was plaguing the City of Boston. For more than two decades, the program has consistently engaged at-risk youth, Boston police officers and now the DA's office, to effect positive change throughout the city's most troubled neighborhoods. Through leadership development, education and facilitating youth and police dialogue events, YPP has changed community and police relationship across Boston. DA Rollin's support over the last several years has elevated the impact of the program significantly.

I believe DA Rollin's lived experiences, her successful legal career, and her support for her extended family, stepping in to raise her two nieces, gives her a unique perspective. That perspective allows her to simultaneously be tough on crime, show deep compassion for crime victims, while also expanding the community relationships to help those who need it.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of an agency serving some of the most vulnerable populations, I cannot think of a better choice for US Attorney than Rachael Rollins.

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley and to the full United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary; thank you for your service, time, and attention.

Respectfully,


Sandra M. McCroom

President and Chief Executive Officer