



April 6, 2022

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

On behalf of America's 73 million children and youth, the board, staff, partners, and constituents of the Children's Defense Fund, I write to urge you to **vote 'yes' to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States.**

As an organization rooted in the civil rights and children's rights movements, we strongly support Jackson's nomination and believe that, based on her qualifications, diverse experience, and strong judicial record, she will vigorously protect the rights our children and families have fought tirelessly for and, as a past public defender, bring a unique perspective that is needed to the bench. Her historic and long overdue nomination as the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court will have ripple effects for Black women, youth, and girls around the nation.

Judge Jackson's confirmation has broad implications for our democracy and the advancement of child well-being. Both depend on protection, fairness, and upholding laws that promote racial equity and justice for our children and youth to thrive. Judge Jackson's nomination is important for the present and future of a democracy where the well-being of Black and brown children is prioritized, from health and healing to diversion from the criminal legal system and the care for those who are differently abled. Marginalized children deserve to live in a world that is free from discrimination in all its forms.

We believe every justice confirmed to the Supreme Court must have a proven track record of upholding democracy, promoting civil rights, and fighting racism in the criminal justice system. Judge Jackson's more than 600 rulings, including her rulings to reform mandatory minimum sentencing laws and reduce sentencing disparities for crack cocaine and powder cocaine, reflect her ability to seek fairness and equality in the application of the law. While our criminal legal system is still in need of transformation, these were important steps to address harsh and racist sentencing disparities that went unchecked for far too long.

Finally, Judge Jackson's bright legal mind, judicious record, and impressive legal career commend her to the distinguished history of the United State Supreme Court. Judge Jackson would also be the first member of the Supreme Court with significant criminal defense experience since Justice Thurgood Marshall retired in 1991 and the first ever to have served as a public defender. Moreover, as Assistant Special Counsel and later Vice Chair of the Sentencing Commission, she worked on [bipartisan reforms](#) to the federal sentencing guidelines that disproportionately harm Black and brown people and their children and families. If confirmed, those dual and unique experiences will have the power to greatly influence our law and how decisions are made for our children, families, and our nation.

Judge Jackson reflects the best of our nation and would be a tremendous asset to the Supreme Court. Her qualifications, diverse record and experience are truly unparalleled. We urge you to **'yes' on her confirmation.** If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or our Director of Federal Policy, Emma Mehrabi at emehrabi@childrensdefense.org.

For our children,

Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson
President and CEO