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STATE OF INDIANA



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TODD ROKITA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 5, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: The Nomination of Edward R. Martin, Jr. for U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia

Dear Senators Thune and Grassley,

We, the Attorneys General of Indiana, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia write in support of President Trump's nomination of Mr. Edward R. Martin Jr. to serve as the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. To put it bluntly, the District of Columbia is broken. And four years of alleged corruption, mismanagement, and derelictions of duty in the U.S. Attorney's Office under President Biden's appointees are in many ways to blame. The District should be made safe again. The District should have a U.S. Attorney who replaces the rule of lawfare with the rule of law. Ed Martin is the man to achieve those goals. We strongly encourage the Senate to confirm him at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Martin's background and qualifications to serve as U.S. Attorney speak for themselves. After graduating law school, Mr. Martin served as a clerk to the Honorable Pasco M. Bowman, II of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and later worked as a litigator at Bryan Cave LLP. He then opened and maintained his own law practice for nearly two decades. During that time, Mr. Martin demonstrated his dedication to public service, including by serving as Chairman of the St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners and Chief of Staff to Missouri Governor Matt Blunt. Mr. Martin is a conservative and a man of faith.

The Senate does not have to wonder or speculate about whether Mr. Martin will lead the U.S. Attorney's Office with honor and skill. As interim U.S. Attorney for the District since January 20, 2025, he has shown conclusively that he has what it takes to serve in that role with integrity and a fearless commitment to do what is right on behalf of the American people. And there are few offices in the American justice system that could use that kind of leader now as much as the D.C. U.S. Attorney's Office.

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Under President Biden, public safety and the quality of life deteriorated in the District of Columbia. Matthew Graves—President Biden’s appointee as chief federal prosecutor for the District—oversaw during his tenure a deeply troubling increase in crime in the nation’s capital. In 2023 alone, the number of homicides in D.C. increased by 35 percent over the previous year. Robberies were up 67 percent. Car theft skyrocketed by 82 percent. All the while, Mr. Graves declined to prosecute over two-thirds of all criminal cases brought to his office. In this way, President Biden brought to the District the same lax-on-crime policies that have benighted many of America’s largest cities for decades.¹

President Trump’s election in November and his appointment of Mr. Martin to serve as interim U.S. Attorney marked the dawn of a new day in the District. Mr. Martin has substantially increased prosecutions of firearm trafficking, drug distribution, and violent offenses, resulting in a 25 percent drop in violent crime in the District in just a few short months.² Under his leadership, the United States Attorney’s Office in D.C. is seeking stiffer sentences for violent crimes and devoting its resources to finding, charging, and prosecuting criminals to the fullest extent of the law. Mr. Martin has prosecuted and seized the assets of pro-Hamas protestors who defaced monuments and assaulted police.³ He has pursued and indicted Chinese-backed hackers who threatened our national security.⁴ He has prosecuted and disrupted the operations of gangs of illegal aliens.⁵ He has rooted out and brought to justice corrupt civil servants who stole taxpayer money.⁶ He has done more in less than four months to restore law and order to the District than Matthew Graves did in nearly four years.

¹ See The Heritage Foundation, *Crime Is Way Up in D.C. Because Us Attorney Matthew Graves Won’t Do His Job* (Feb. 12, 2024), <https://www.heritage.org/crime-and-justice/commentary/crime-way-dc-because-us-attorney-matthew-graves-wont-do-his-job>.

² See U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, *High-Ranking Tren de Aragua Member in Custody on Terrorism and International Drug Distribution Charges* (Apr. 23, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/high-ranking-tren-de-aragua-member-custody-terrorism-and-international-drug-distribution>; U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, *27 Members or Associates of Tren de Aragua Charged with Racketeering, Narcotics, Sex Trafficking, Robbery and Firearms offenses* (Apr. 21, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/27-members-or-associates-tren-de-aragua-charged-racketeering-narcotics-sex-trafficking>; U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, *U.S. Attorney Ed Martin Jr. Credits President Trump’s First 100 Days with 25% Drop in D.C. Violent Crime* (Apr. 28, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/us-attorney-ed-martin-jr-credits-president-trumps-first-100-days-25-drop-dc-violent>.

³ See U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, *Justice Department Disrupts Hamas Terrorist Financing Scheme Through Seizure of Cryptocurrency* (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-disrupts-hamas-terrorist-financing-scheme-through-seizure-cryptocurrency>; U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, *Protestor Sentenced in Damaging U.S. Government Property at Union Station Following a Protest Rally* (Apr. 4, 2025), [District of Columbia | Protestor Sentenced in Damaging U.S. Government Property at Union Station Following a Protest Rally | United States Department of Justice](https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/protestor-sentenced-in-damaging-u-s-government-property-at-union-station-following-a-protest-rally).

⁴ See U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, *Justice Department Charges 12 Chinese Contract Hackers and Law Enforcement Officers in Global Computer Intrusion Campaigns* (Mar. 5, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-charges-12-chinese-contract-hackers-and-law-enforcement-officers-global>.

⁵ See U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, *Multiple Members of Transnational Criminal Organization ‘18th Street’ Sentenced for Roles in Various Violent Crimes Committed During Their Gang Involvement* (Mar. 7, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/multiple-members-transnational-criminal-organization-18th-street-sentenced-roles-various>.

⁶ See U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, *Former USDA Program Director Pleads Guilty in \$400,000 Kickback Scheme* (Apr. 29, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/former-usda-program-director-pleads-guilty-400000-kickback-scheme>.

These accomplishments matter not just to residents of the District, but to all Americans. As President Trump said in his Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Executive Order, “Washington, D.C., is the only city that belongs to all Americans and that all Americans can claim as theirs. As the capital city of the greatest Nation in the history of the world, it should showcase beautiful, clean, and safe public spaces.” As America prepares to celebrate its semiquincentennial next year, it has never been more important to restore public order in D.C. and make the city a place that citizens from all our states can visit and appreciate in safety and comfort. Mr. Martin is making good progress toward those goals and should be allowed to continue his work.

In addition to the advances he has made to bring public order back to the District, Mr. Martin has also undertaken the critical work of undoing and remediating the partisan abuses of prosecutorial power that occurred in the D.C. U.S. Attorney’s Office under President Biden. As state Attorneys General, we know too well the dangers that lawfare presents to the integrity of our justice system. Lawfare is a concerning and insidious threat to the rule of law and our legal institutions. And the D.C. U.S. Attorney’s Office has been an epicenter of lawfare over the past four years. While in office, Matthew Graves sought to imprison close advisors to President Trump and provided support to Special Counsel Jack Smith’s partisan prosecutions of the President. With Ed Martin’s appointment as interim U.S. Attorney, those abuses were brought to an end, and we are confident Mr. Martin will ensure that politicized justice does not again find purchase in the District if he is confirmed.

Senator Durbin and Senate Democrats have responded to Mr. Martin’s nomination with a campaign of character assassination and over-the-top attacks designed to sow trepidation about the nomination. This was predictable. Senate Democrats used this same tired playbook to try to derail Justice Kavanaugh’s nomination. They engaged in the same kind of hyperbole and hysterics last year and the year before in an attempt to tarnish the reputation of Justice Thomas. Senator Schiff—who honed his knack for invective during the Russia Collusion Hoax—is deploying those same tactics against Mr. Martin’s nomination. For Senate Democrats faced with a conservative nominee or official they do not like, the sky is always falling. This time is no different. We encourage Senate Republicans to act accordingly and turn a deaf ear to these attacks.

President Trump has clearly signaled his confidence in Mr. Martin’s ability to serve in one of the most important U.S. Attorney posts in the country. We ask that you do the same and swiftly confirm Mr. Martin.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of President Trump.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Rokita". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General



Steve Marshall
Attorney General of Alabama



Treg Taylor
Attorney General of Alaska



Tim Griffin
Attorney General of Arkansas



James Uthmeier
Attorney General of Florida



Raúl Labrador
Attorney General of Idaho



Brenna Bird
Attorney General of Iowa



Kris Kobach
Attorney General of Kansas



Russell Coleman
Attorney General of Kentucky



Liz Murrill
Attorney General of Louisiana



Lynn Fitch
Attorney General of Mississippi



Andrew Bailey
Attorney General of Missouri



Austin Knudsen
Attorney General of Montana



Mike Hilgers
Attorney General of Nebraska



Drew Wrigley
Attorney General of North Dakota



Dave Yost
Attorney General of Ohio



Gentner Drummond
Attorney General of Oklahoma



Alan Wilson
Attorney General of South Carolina



Marty Jackley
Attorney General of South Dakota



Jonathan Skrmetti
Attorney General of Tennessee



Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas



Derek Brown
Attorney General of Utah



John B. McCuskey
Attorney General of West Virginia

CC: The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member
U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510