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April 22, 2015

Senator Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman,

On behalf of both the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus and the Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus, we write to strongly support the nomination of Loretta Lynch to serve as the 83rd Attorney General of the United States. Loretta Lynch is the most qualified candidate to lead the Justice Department at this moment in time, and we urge an expedited confirmation vote so that she may begin work serving our country.

First, we must note the historic significance of Ms. Lynch's appointment. If confirmed, Loretta Lynch would be our nation's first African-American female – and only the second African-American or woman ever—to serve as Attorney General. In a country where both African Americans and women have struggled for equality, this is a remarkable accomplishment to celebrate.

The Justice Department serves as the enforcer of the law and administrator of justice in the United States. Currently, the Department faces challenges across a wide range of issues, including civil rights. Our nation recently celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act and the Department's role in the enforcement of federal civil rights laws. The leader of the Department must carry the legacy as chief proponent of equal opportunity for all and must be committed to defending the rights of all citizens and maintaining the progress we have achieved in civil rights.

Ms. Lynch is an exemplary leader that the Department of Justice needs to carry on its work. She has respect and support across the political spectrum because she listens to and works with people from all perspectives to accomplish significant outcomes. She has demonstrated skill inside and outside of the courtroom, including as a litigator in her multiple positions working in the U.S. Attorney's office of the Eastern District starting in 1990. She left the public life in 2001 to become a partner in the law firm of Hogan and Hartson

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and remained dedicated to the rights of all people and the work of enforcing United States laws.

She has a powerful record as a proven leader within the Department of Justice. Throughout her 30-year career, she has distinguished herself as a tough, fair, and independent lawyer who has twice headed one of the most active and effective U.S. Attorney's offices in the country. Lynch was confirmed by the Senate to lead the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York (EDNY) not once, but twice; first, from 1999 to 2001, and again from 2010 to the present. In her role as U.S. Attorney, Lynch effectively manages over 160 Assistant U.S. Attorneys and 120 support staff on the front lines of America's fight against terrorism, public corruption and community violence in some of our nation's toughest neighborhoods.

Few can question U.S. Attorney Lynch's credentials. Her confirmation should not be used as a political protest over the current Human Trafficking Bill, President Obama's executive action on immigration and other GOP objections to the President's policy, these arguments have nothing to do with U.S. Attorney Lynch's qualifications to be our top law enforcement officer. As our Ohio U.S. Senator, we urge you to support the swift confirmation of U.S. Attorney Lynch as the as the Attorney General.

Sincerely,



Alicia Reece
President, OLBC
33rd District



Teresa Fedor
Chair, ODWC
45th District



Christie Kuhns, Esq.
Parliamentarian, OLBC
Secretary, ODWC
32nd District