

# United States Senate

December 10, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham:

We write to ask you to cancel the nominations hearing currently scheduled for December 16. This Committee has already departed from precedent in holding one lame duck nominations hearing. To hold a second would not only fly in the face of tradition, but would deny President-Elect Biden the opportunity to fill judicial vacancies.

As noted in a November 12 letter from Ranking Member Feinstein, dating back to 1984, this Committee had only *twice* held a nominations hearing in the lame duck session of a presidential election year. But both of those hearings followed the reelection of a sitting president.

Despite the request to delay consideration of any additional judicial nominees, the Committee proceeded with a nominations hearing on November 18. It is not too late, however, to cancel the December 16 hearing and return to the longstanding practice under which judicial nominees are not processed after Election Day.

As of the date of this letter, we are just 41 days away from President-Elect Biden's inauguration. The Committee should accordingly cease to process any additional judicial nominations and allow the Biden-Harris Administration the opportunity to fill judicial vacancies.



DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
Ranking Member

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senator



RICHARD J. DURBIN  
United States Senator



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE  
United States Senator



AMY KLOBUCHAR  
United States Senator



CHRISTOPHER A. COONS  
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senator



MAZIE K. HIRONO  
United States Senator



CORY A. BOOKER  
United States Senator