

July 13, 2026

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the 250,000 advocates of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), I am writing to share our strong opposition to the nomination of Todd Blanche to serve as United States Attorney General. We urge you to reject his confirmation.

As the nation's top law enforcement agency, the Department of Justice (DOJ) is responsible for protecting the civil rights of all people in America and vigorously enforcing our nation's landmark civil rights laws — led by the chief law enforcement officer, the Attorney General. This position is charged with a commitment to the Constitution, rule of law, and defending the rights of every person, and must be held by someone who can remain independent and impartial. But as Deputy Attorney General and now as Acting Attorney General, Mr. Blanche has consistently demonstrated contempt for these foundational pillars of our democracy and the broad range of civil rights protections the Attorney General is charged to uphold. Additionally, given his history as one of President Trump's personal defense attorneys, Mr. Blanche has shown that he is unwilling and unable to maintain independence and impartiality.

Given our mission of protecting the health, rights, and dignity of every person, NCJW is deeply concerned about Mr. Blanche's record during his time in leadership at the DOJ. He has harnessed its power to undermine reproductive rights, compromised its foundational mission to ensure equal justice for all, and politicized the Department in pursuit of this administration's agenda.

Mr. Blanche has weaponized the DOJ to erode reproductive freedom.

Mr. Blanche has held a senior leadership position in the DOJ since March 2025. Under his leadership, the Department has turned its back on reproductive health care patients and providers. The DOJ has deliberately rendered abortion care less safe and accessible by declining to use existing federal law to prosecute violent protestors who obstruct clinics and

abandoning lawsuits against hospitals that refused to provide emergency abortion care.^{1, 2, 3} The implementation of targeted policies like blocking veterans' coverage for abortion care and counseling in cases of rape, incest, and health endangerment has whittled away already endangered access.⁴ With Mr. Blanche at the helm, this DOJ has effectively cultivated a hostile environment for the millions of Americans seeking or delivering essential reproductive health services.

We are particularly concerned by the ongoing, targeted campaign to undermine the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act (18 U.S. Code § 248), the critical law safeguarding patients and providers from violence, obstruction, and harassment at reproductive health care clinics. As Acting Attorney General, Mr. Blanche has directly led many of these egregious efforts, including the retaliatory firings of four Assistant United States Attorneys who prosecuted FACE cases, the publication of a deceptive "report" falsely alleging misuse of the FACE Act, and the proposed creation of a slush fund whose payouts would benefit violent FACE Act violators.^{5, 6, 7}

The future of medication abortion also hangs in the balance, with a sitting senator actively pressuring Mr. Blanche to settle lawsuits pertaining to mifepristone dispensing, which would endanger widespread access to care for millions of Americans.⁸ Confirming Mr. Blanche would empower him to further utilize the DOJ to attack and undermine reproductive health care, and weaken federal protections that patients and providers rely upon.

¹ The Chief of Staff to the Attorney General, *Memorandum regarding FACE Act Charging Policy to Kathleen Wolfe*, Supervisory Official of the Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, January 24, 2025, <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/25503853-12425-doj-memo-on-face-act-prosecutions/>.

² Karen L. Tritz and David R. Wright, Directors of Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG) and Survey & Operations Group (SOG), *Memorandum regarding rescinded reinforcement of EMTALA obligations specific to patients who are pregnant or are experiencing pregnancy loss to State Survey Agency Directors*, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, May 29, 2025, <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-21-22-hospitals-rescinded-05292025.pdf>.

³ Alice Miranda Ollstein, "Trump admin moves to drop fight over emergency abortions, reversing Biden admin stance," *POLITICO*, March 4, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/04/trump-emergency-abortion-00211399>.

⁴ Joshua J. Craddock, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel, *Memorandum regarding Reconsidering the Authority of the Department of Veterans Affairs to Provide Abortion Services to the Secretary Department of Veterans Affairs*, December 18, 2025, <https://www.justice.gov/olc/media/1421726/dl>.

⁵ Sarah N. Lynch and Jacob Rosen, "DOJ fires at least 4 prosecutors involved in FACE Act cases during Biden administration," *CBS News*, April 13, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/doj-fires-4-prosecutors-face-act-biden-administration/>.

⁶ Regan Rush and Megan Marks, "Separating Fact from Fiction in FACE Act Enforcement," *Just Security*, April 14, 2026, <https://www.justsecurity.org/136275/separating-fact-from-fiction-face-act-enforcement/>.

⁷ Teresa Cisneros Burton, "The Trump Administration Isn't Just Ignoring Violence Against Abortion Clinics—It Wants to Fund It," *Ms. Magazine*, May 26, 2026, <https://msmagazine.com/2026/05/26/trump-administration-clinic-violence-slush-fund/>.

⁸ Alice Miranda Ollstein, "Hawley pushes Blanche to settle abortion pill case," *Politico*, June 11, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2026/06/11/congress/hawley-pushes-blanche-to-settle-abortion-pill-case-00957797>.

Mr. Blanche has undermined civil rights protections and the safety of our communities.

Under Mr. Blanche's leadership as Deputy Attorney General and now as Acting Attorney General, the DOJ has effectively dismantled, re-shaped, reversed, and weaponized its long-standing work to protect and advance the civil rights of all people. The Department has seriously tarnished its "Crown Jewel" — its Civil Rights Division (CRT), the office charged with protecting the range of our nation's essential civil rights and hate crime laws. Under this administration, the division's mission has been utterly distorted and effectively abandoned — altering its mission statements and priorities to shift work away from defending communities targeted by discrimination and instead prioritizing the administration's agenda.⁹ Hundreds of seasoned CRT lawyers committed to civil rights have left, been pushed out, or reassigned.¹⁰ In addition, the Department has dismissed or closed a shocking number of cases on key civil rights concerns such as voting rights and policing.^{11,12} These actions provide evidence that the Department's leadership, including Mr. Blanche, are dismantling the agency's crucial work of securing equality, safety, and justice for every person.

During Mr. Blanche's leadership, the DOJ has taken actions that have made the Jewish community and other targeted communities less safe at a time when antisemitic and other forms of hate crimes have reached record high levels as reported by the FBI.¹³ It has attempted to eliminate funding for the Department's essential Community Relations Service, the office dedicated to preventing and addressing hate by fostering community collaboration, addressing conflict, and resolving community tensions.¹⁴ It summarily terminated hundreds of federal grants dedicated to preventing violence, addressing hate crimes, and keeping communities safe.¹⁵ Mr. Blanche justified and defended the President's proposed DOJ Fiscal Year 2027 budget request before the House and Senate appropriations committees, a request which zeroed out funding

⁹ Perry Stein and Jeremy Roebuck, "Civil rights lawyers leave en masse as Justice Dept. mission shifts," Washington Post, April 28, 2025,

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/04/28/justice-civil-rights-harmeet-dhillon-trump/>.

¹⁰ Ryan Lucas, "70% of the DOJ's Civil Rights Division lawyers are leaving because of Trump's reshaping," NPR, May 19, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/19/g-s1-66906/trump-civil-rights-justice-exodus>.

¹¹ Sam Levine, "Trump's justice department appointees remove leadership of voting unit," The Guardian, April 28, 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/apr/28/trump-doj-voting-rights>.

¹² Jacey Fortin, Devlin Barrett and Ernesto Londoño, "Trump Administration Pulls Back From Local Police Oversight Across U.S.," The New York Times, May 21, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/21/us/trump-police-consent-decrees.html>.

¹³ Russell Contreras, "Hate crimes hit second largest record in 2024: FBI," Axios, August 5, 2025, <https://www.axios.com/2025/08/05/hate-crimes-2024-black-antisemitism-muslim-fbi>.

¹⁴ Scott MacFarlane, "Civil rights-era government agency in Justice Department to be purged," CBS News, April 6, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/civil-rights-era-government-agency-to-be-purged/>.

¹⁵ Amy Solomon and Betsy Pearl, DOJ Funding Update: A Deeper Look at the Cuts," Council on Criminal Justice, May 2025, <https://counciloncj.org/doj-funding-update-a-deeper-look-at-the-cuts/>.

for the three largest hate crime prevention grant programs.^{16,17,18} The President's Fiscal Year 2026 budget request also zeroed out these programs, stating, "the Budget eliminates programs that manipulate the legal system on ideological grounds, such as... programs that focus on so-called hate crimes in clear violation of the First Amendment."¹⁹ At a time when communities like ours are facing escalating threats motivated by hate, efforts to dismantle the federal infrastructure for preventing and responding to hate crimes are deeply alarming and risk leaving the Jewish and other vulnerable communities with fewer resources and protections.

Mr. Blanche has overseen an unprecedented politicization of the DOJ.

As Acting Attorney General, Mr. Blanche has operationalized the DOJ to serve as a tool for advancing the administration's agenda. He has led the Department's ongoing attack on the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), targeting and indicting one of our nation's most important civil rights and anti-hate organizations in an attempt to hinder SPLC's work advancing racial justice and fighting against white supremacy.²⁰ At the same time, Mr. Blanche has shockingly pardoned and commuted sentences for violent participants in the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol, filing motions to vacate the seditious conspiracy convictions of members of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers extremist groups for their roles in the insurrection and supporting pardons for perpetrators of the attack.^{21,22} Anyone who condones or minimizes violent extremism is not fit to serve as our nation's chief law enforcement officer, a position whose purpose is to protect the rights and safety of every person.

¹⁶ Donald J. Trump and the Office of Management and Budget, *Budget of the US Government*, April 3, 2026, https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/budget_fy2027.pdf.

¹⁷ House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, "Oversight Hearing – Department of Justice," June 2, 2026, <https://appropriations.house.gov/schedule/hearings/oversight-hearing-department-justice-0>.

¹⁸ Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, "A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request for the Department of Justice," May 19, 2026, <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/a-review-of-the-presidents-fiscal-year-2027-budget-request-for-the-department-of-justice>.

¹⁹ Donald J. Trump and the Office of Management and Budget, *The President's FY 2026 Discretionary Budget Request*, May 2, 2025, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BUDGET-2026-BUD/pdf/BUDGET-2026-BUD.pdf>.

²⁰ Eric Tucker, "Southern Poverty Law Center seeks dismissal of 'vindictive' Justice Department indictment," May 26, 2026, PBS News, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/southern-poverty-law-center-seeks-dismissal-of-vindictive-justice-department-indictment>.

²¹ The Associated Press, "Justice Department moves to toss conspiracy convictions for Jan. 6 rioters," April 15, 2026, NPR, <https://www.npr.org/2026/04/15/g-s1-117473/justice-department-toss-seditious-conspiracy>.

²² Theodor Meyer and Perry Stein, "Trump's attorney general pick stares down Senate confirmation hurdles," June 10, 2026, The Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/06/10/trumps-attorney-general-pick-stares-down-senate-confirmation-hurdles/>

Mr. Blanche is unfit to serve as Attorney General.

The position of Attorney General must be filled by someone with unquestionable independence who can be counted upon to uphold the rights of all people, prioritize the rule of law, and strengthen the protections guaranteed by our democracy. Mr. Blanche's record provides unquestionable evidence that he lacks the independence and commitment to constitutional principles required to serve this country as Attorney General and demonstrates that he has not and will not protect the civil rights and liberties, and the safety, of everyday people.

For these reasons, NCJW respectfully urges you to reject the nomination of Todd Blanche to serve as United States Attorney General. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact NCJW Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy Darcy Hirsh at dhirsh@NCJW.org.

Sincerely,



Jody Rabhan
Chief Executive Officer
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