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July 24, 2020

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

Dear Chairman Graham, Ranking Member Feinstein, and Committee Members:

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) writes to express its strong opposition to the nomination of Stephen McGlynn to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois due to his extreme hostility to reproductive health, rights, and justice.

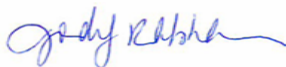
Delving into McGlynn's past may serve as an alarming guide to future decisions should he be confirmed. McGlynn served as the Chairman of the "Platform & Resolution Committee" for the 2004 Illinois Republican Party in which the party committed itself "to protect the fundamental right to life and dignity of every life including the lives of the unborn." Further, the platform stated: "The paramount right of an individual is the right to life. From the first beat of a heart to the last breath drawn, we recognize each individual's dignity and worth. Government is obligated by law and by deed, to protect and defend each individual's right to life, not only from government action, but also against a threat from another. The right to life is of such primacy that no government entity nor any person shall be allowed to take another's life without due process of law and only under the most compelling and grave circumstances. Government must defend and protect those who by age, disability or other affliction cannot protect themselves. This includes the protection of the unborn child." This is chilling language to the majority of Americans who support the constitutional right to abortion.

While serving as a co-chair for the Illinois Republican Party, McGlynn supported and defended comments made by staunchly anti-reproductive freedom Republican Senate candidate Alan Keyes. Keyes called his opponent in the 2006 Illinois Senate race, Barack Obama, a "left wing extremist" because of his support for reproductive freedom.

Equally troubling, McGlynn is widely regarded as an influential member of anti-reproductive freedom groups, including Illinois Federation for Right to Life, which works to end abortion. As a candidate for the Fifth Appellate District of Illinois in 2012, McGlynn received the endorsements of anti-reproductive freedom groups Illinois Citizens for Life PAC and Illinois Federation for Right-to-Life PAC. Both of these groups spread misinformation about access to safe, legal abortion.

Given his background, it is hard to fathom how McGlynn would serve as an impartial justice. NCJW strongly urges the Senate Judiciary Committee to vote against Stephen McGlynn's nomination for a lifetime seat on the federal bench.

Sincerely,



Jody Rabhan
Chief Policy Officer
National Council of Jewish Women