

October 9, 2020

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The undersigned religious, religiously-affiliated, values-based, and faith-centered organizations and communities represent millions of people of faith committed to compassion, justice, and equal rights for all, including equal access to health care. We are deeply concerned about the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett and what it would mean for the millions of people who rely on the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

President Trump has stated he will only nominate judges who would dismantle the ACA. Judge Amy Coney Barrett would seem to fit that bill given her demonstrated opposition to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and to the very premise that all deserve quality, comprehensive, and nondiscriminatory health coverage and services. In the midst of an ongoing pandemic with more than 200,000 deaths and record unemployment, we need a principle defender of justice on the Supreme Court who is committed to upholding civil and human rights, including equal access to health care, while serving on the highest court in the land.

People of faith believe in the dignity of all — and that means all. Our tradition teaches that each of us is made in the image of the divine. As such, every single person's health is paramount and unassailable. We have an obligation to care for and to protect our bodies and to ensure all others can do the same. This is especially true for the most marginalized members of our society — particularly for Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities; young people; low-income people; people living with disabilities; rural communities; immigrants, and LGBTQ individuals. Responding to the urgent needs of these vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus requires nothing less than the full attention of the Senate.

Notably, the ACA represents a critical source of health care coverage for these historically underserved communities and was instrumental in covering a wide range of life-saving preventive services, including immunizations, without cost-sharing requirements. However, the fate of this landmark legislation, which had a transformative impact on all aspects of health care by increasing the scope of benefits and improving access to coverage for millions of Americans, hangs in the balance as the Supreme Court is set to hear oral arguments in *California v. Texas* on November 10.

At stake are protections for 135 million Americans with pre-existing conditions, Medicaid expansion that covers 16 million people, 12 million seniors who will have to pay more for prescription drugs, and so much more. Should the ACA be struck down, tens of millions of Americans will immediately lose access to coverage as an unprecedented health crisis rages on, plunging our entire health care system into confusion and chaos. People of faith refuse to remain idle while the health, safety, and lives of countless individuals are on the line and believe that our next Supreme Court justice must commit to upholding precedent affirming the constitutionality of the ACA.

During her time on the bench, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg exemplified a federal judiciary that is of and for the people; that is fair, independent, and qualified; and that is committed to upholding constitutional rights for everyone. We now ask the Senate to follow her powerful example by putting the health and security of our nation and its people first by opposing the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to a lifetime seat on the US Supreme Court. It is the moral thing to do.

Sincerely,

National Council of Jewish Women  
African American Ministers In Action  
Alliance of Baptists  
Ameinu  
Auburn Seminary  
Avodah  
Bayard Rustin Liberation Initiative  
Bend the Arc  
Catholics for Choice  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Clergy Advocacy Board of Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice  
Community Renewal Society  
Faith in Public Life  
FaithTrust Institute  
Faithful America  
Franciscan Action Network  
Habonim Dror North America  
Interfaith Alliance  
Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Justice (IVRJ)  
Justice Revival  
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action  
Jewish Women International  
Keshet  
Kohenet Hebrew Priestess Institute  
Lab/Shul  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Peaceful Families Project  
Reconstructing Judaism  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
Saint Mark United Methodist Church  
SisterReach  
Society for Humanistic Judaism  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Ta'amod: Stand Up!  
The Shalom Center  
Union for Reform Judaism

Unitarian Universalist Association  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
Women of Reform Judaism