

May 23, 2001

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senate
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

We write to support the nomination of John G. Roberts, Jr. for the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The National School Boards Association is the nationwide organization representing public school governance. NSBA's mission is to foster excellence and equity in public elementary and secondary education through leadership. Founded in 1940, NSBA is a not-for-profit federation of associations of school boards across the United States and its territories. NSBA represents the nation's 95,000 school board members that govern 14,980 local school districts serving the nation's more than 47 million public school students.

It is clear from his professional record that John Roberts is a highly intelligent and motivated attorney. Mr. Roberts has distinguished himself as an outstanding legal scholar from the start of his career. He was managing editor of the law review at Harvard Law School and served as a Supreme Court clerk for Justice Rehnquist. He continues to excel in private practice and is a distinguished member of the Supreme Court Bar.

What may not be as clear from the written record is his character. Mr. Roberts is a dedicated public servant. He has represented a number of public bodies himself, and further, regularly provides assistance to many other attorneys who also represent public entities. Mr. Roberts is among those attorneys who are always willing to contribute their time and professional expertise. He has often given his time to provide training, counsel, and advice to others. He has participated on programs within the National School Boards Association and the Counsel of School Attorneys as a speaker and author.

In addition, he has been willing to assist school attorneys as they have prepared to present arguments in the United States Supreme Court. His willingness to spend extended time assisting others comes from his dedication to improving the practice of law. He is not outcome oriented in his approach to legal issues. Instead, he seeks accuracy and fairness in his work. He is always willing to take the time to do things right; and he is willing to support others who exhibit similar values. Above all, he personifies the qualities of an outstanding jurist with his even-temper and respectful demeanor.

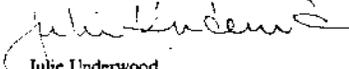


*Excellence and Equity
in Public Education
through School Board
Leadership*

Socrates wrote that a judge should have four characteristics – “to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide impartially”. We are confident that Mr. Robens possesses all of these attributes.

Sincerely,


Anne L. Bryant
Executive Director


Julie Underwood
General Counsel/Associate
Executive Director