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KEITH THIRION

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PAULETTE MEYER

January 14, 2025

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Ranking Member Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing nearly 140 public interest and civil rights organizations, I urge you to oppose the nomination of Pam Bondi to serve as the Attorney General of the United States.

Bondi's controversial career has been marked by a zealous commitment to conservative ideology and loyalty to Donald Trump, making her ill-equipped to lead the Department of Justice and act as a guardian of our Constitution, civil rights, and the rule of law.

If confirmed as Attorney General, Bondi would be the most influential figure tasked with enforcing our nation's civil rights laws. Bondi's litigation background, which largely consists of launching attacks on civil and human rights, demonstrates that her confirmation would be a travesty and would directly harm the lives of millions of Americans.

Bondi's troubling record on civil rights extends throughout her career, including her time as Attorney General of Florida, when she spearheaded unsuccessful efforts to overturn the Affordable Care Act and worked to uphold Florida's ban on marriage equality for LGBTQ couples, even shamelessly publicly defending her stance days after the Pulse nightclub massacre in 2016.

In her current role as chair of the Center for Litigation at the America First Policy Institute (AFPI), Bondi oversees lawsuits and advocacy efforts aimed at curtailing civil rights, most notably in the voter rights realm. An alarming example of this anti-democratic work is *AFPI v. Biden*, in which AFPI challenged Executive Order 14019, a much-needed measure introduced by President Biden in 2021 to improve voter access. While the emergency request was denied by a U.S. District Court for lack of standing and insufficient evidence, AFPI's challenge served to popularize and concretize deceitful falsehoods about voter fraud just weeks before the 2024 presidential election. Bondi's involvement in this case came as no surprise, given her active efforts to derail the 2020 presidential election in Pennsylvania.



As Attorney General, Bondi would be duty bound to serve the American people and the U.S. Constitution – not the extreme far-right, for which she is an ideologue, or the interests of Trump and his inner circle. But Bondi’s track record of unwavering loyalty to Trump and her troubling complicity in his scandals severely undermines this duty.

Most notably, when she was seeking reelection to the office of Attorney General of Florida in 2013, a political action committee supporting Bondi received an illegal \$25,000 donation from the Trump family’s charitable foundation. Bondi’s subsequent failure to investigate Trump University for serious allegations of fraud therefore drew widespread scrutiny and serves as grim foreshadowing for what a Justice Department under Bondi’s rein might look like.

Trump and Bondi’s relationship grew even more tightknit during Trump’s first presidency, culminating in Bondi’s appointment to serve as his personal defense lawyer throughout his first impeachment proceedings in 2019. Bondi also publicly reprimanded recent efforts to hold Trump accountable for serious abuses of presidential power, including in the Mar-a-Lago stolen documents case.

Bondi’s fierce loyalty to the incoming President, which stretches to her provision of personal legal representation, indicates that she is more akin to Trump’s personal attorney, and not an attorney for the American people. Not only does this disqualify her from the role of Attorney General, but it would also cause irreparable harm to the rule of law, fundamental civil and human rights, the Constitution, and safety of democracy in the United States for years to come.

Given all these concerns, we wholeheartedly urge the Judiciary Committee to reject Pam Bondi’s nomination to serve as Attorney General. We stand ready to answer any questions you may have about our conclusions regarding this nominee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Thirion".

Keith Thirion
Interim Co-President, Alliance for Justice