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KEITH THIRION

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PAULETTE MEYER

February 25, 2025

Senator Charles Grassley
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Grassley and 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 and your Senate Judiciary Committee colleagues to oppose the nomination of Aaron Reitz to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Policy.

Reitz's controversial career has been marked by a fanatical commitment to extreme conservative ideology seeking to undermine fundamental civil and human rights — particularly in areas of reproductive health care and gender-affirming care.

If confirmed as assistant attorney general for the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Policy, Reitz would serve as a key advisor to the attorney general and have free rein to implement departmental policies and affect legal policy.

As deputy attorney general of Texas, Reitz worked alongside Texas Attorney General Paxton in filing nearly 50 lawsuits against the Biden administration aimed at restricting access to abortion medication, resisting federal immigration policies so as to allow Texas law enforcement to detain and deport individuals arbitrarily, and opposing federal regulations intended to protect the environment.

Reitz has described these efforts in no uncertain terms, explaining their need to “protect precious unborn children,” “push back against woke corporations by thwarting their Environmental, Social, and Governance agenda,” and “resist radical LGBTQ activists’ attempts to push their sexual agenda on kids.” Reitz also cosigned the Office of the Attorney General's official opinion classifying gender-affirming care as “child abuse” under Texas Law.



In his current role as chief of staff for Senator Ted Cruz, Reitz oversaw the introduction of S. 4368, legislation that would allow states to implement laws and policies undermining the standard of care for in vitro fertilization. A blatant attempt designed to disrupt the advancement of S. 4445, the Right to IVF Act, which would have codified access to IVF nationwide.

As assistant attorney general, Reitz would be responsible for serving the American people and upholding the rule of law. He would oversee department policies related to enforcing the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, a federal law that ensures individuals can access reproductive health care services without fear of violence or intimidation. Additionally, he would play a key role in policies related to the National Task Force on Violence Against Reproductive Health Care Providers.

Reitz has been very clear about his reprehensible views on reproductive health care. He has publicly declared that “human life starts at conception, no exceptions,” and vowed to oppose anything that does not recognize “the newly conceived child as fully human.” His extreme far-right stance reflects a narrow, regressive outlook that ignores the fundamental rights of women and marginalized communities. Additionally, his position reveals a lack of impartiality in upholding the rule of law, with a strong intent on undermining access to reproductive health care.

The Office of Legal Policy must be led by someone who understands the critical importance of upholding the law in a way that promotes equality and justice for all Americans. Reitz’s record shows a consistent pattern of advocacy for policies that hurt vulnerable communities, and as such, he is unfit to lead this office.

Given all these concerns, we wholeheartedly urge the Judiciary Committee to reject Aaron Reitz to serve as assistant attorney general for the Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Policy. 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