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**KEITH THIRION**

CHAIR

**PAULETTE MEYER**

January 29, 2025

Senator Charles Grassley  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin  
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator 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 Kash Patel to serve as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Patel's career is defined by incompetence, dangerous rhetoric about weaponizing the FBI to target political opponents, and dogged loyalty to President Trump. Patel's confirmation to this critical position would inflict irrevocable damage on the FBI, an institution he once vowed to dismantle, and, far more importantly, endanger the safety, security, and rights of all Americans.

First, Patel is, without question, unqualified to direct the nation's leading investigatory and security agency, as illustrated by former Trump administration officials themselves, who have declared that he is "profoundly unqualified" for the role. Confirming an unqualified individual with a glaring lack of law enforcement or senior cabinet level experience, judgement, and commitment to our nation's principles in such a preeminently powerful role would directly threaten the lives and safety of the American people.

Indeed, Patel has provoked multiple scandals and exhibited vast incompetence when previously serving in influential positions. A prominent example of this is his misleading of Pentagon officials in 2020, when he falsely relayed that the U.S. had received approval for Seal Team 6 to conduct a hostage rescue on Nigerian territory. Patel's lies almost sparked a national security crisis, and, if followed, would have put the lives of the extraction team at extreme risk. A further example of Patel's incompetence was his authorship of the controversial Nunes Memo, which falsely accused the FBI of improperly obtaining a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) warrant against former Trump foreign adviser Carter Page.

Secondly, Patel’s troubling rhetoric about weaponizing the FBI to target political opponents should single-handedly disqualify him from this position, as it raises grave concerns about his ability to lead an agency insulated from electoral politics and political will. A fervent Trump loyalist and self-professed member of “Donald Trump’s army,” Patel has previously expressed intentions to go after the media, members of Congress, and law enforcement officials who attempted to hold the president accountable. In his book, *Government Gangsters: The Deep State, the Truth, and the Battle for Our Democracy*, Patel described members of the “deep state” as “the most dangerous threat to our democracy” and wrote a list of political enemies made up of Democratic politicians and former Trump aides who have since spoken out against the president. Additionally, in a 2023 interview with Steve Bannon, Patel said the Justice Department under Trump would “come after” those in the media who “helped Joe Biden rig presidential elections.” We, as a nation, cannot hand such a powerful agency to someone who has pledged to weaponize it against Americans.

Patel’s personal loyalty to Trump also extends to his role on the board of directors for Trump Media Technology Group, the parent company of Trump’s Truth Social. The FBI Director must be free of such personal and financial conflicts of interest that may influence its ability to conduct independent investigations, including of the president or top aides if necessary. Patel’s personal loyalty to Trump and persistent statements threatening persecution of the president’s political opponents directly conflict with the Bureau’s mandate to be independent from politics.

Additionally, Patel has spread and publicized multiple baseless, harmful conspiracy theories. Among these are blatant falsehoods about the 2020 election results in an attempt to overturn the will of the people, which includes his publication of a children’s book on the matter: *The Plot Against the King: 2,000 Mules*. Patel also pedalled conspiracies relating to QAnon and the FBI’s investigation of January 6 insurrectionists. It is, therefore, a chilling prospect that he would serve as the head of the FBI, an independent agency tasked with investigating based on hard facts and law.

Put simply, the Senate would be putting the American people — and their security, safety, and rights — at risk if it confirms Patel, and doing so would irrevocably damage the FBI and the American government. His nomination is deeply troubling, especially given his vows to dismantle the Bureau and turn it into a “museum of the deep state,” his unwavering loyalty to the president, repeated publication of baseless conspiracy theories, and blatant lack of experience.

For the numerous reasons outlined in this letter, we strenuously urge the Judiciary Committee to reject Kash Patel’s nomination to serve as Director of the FBI. 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