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PRESIDENT

**Rachel Rossi**

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July 30, 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 strongly urge you and your colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee to reject the nomination of Chad Meredith to serve as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Chad Meredith has built his career on advancing an extreme conservative legal agenda that threatens the rights of the most vulnerable in our country. His record demonstrates a consistent effort to restrict access to abortion and reproductive health care. Even prior to the *Dobbs* decision in 2022, Meredith was at the forefront of the anti-abortion movement. As Solicitor General of Kentucky, he worked to enforce a medically unnecessary law requiring abortion providers to secure transfer and transport agreements with local hospitals — part of a broader strategy known as “TRAP” laws (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers). These laws are designed not to protect patient safety, but to impose burdensome requirements that clinics often cannot meet, effectively shutting them down. In Kentucky, that meant targeting the state’s only abortion clinic. When enforcement of the law threatened to leave Kentuckians without access to care, Meredith argued that requiring patients to travel 150 miles out of state for potentially lifesaving abortion services did not amount to an undue burden of their rights.

When that attempt failed, he defended a six-week abortion ban — a time well before most people even know they are pregnant — effectively criminalizing nearly 90% of abortions in Kentucky. Once again thwarted by the courts, Meredith defended a law requiring providers to display and describe ultrasound images to patients, regardless of their wishes. He justified this coercive statute by claiming that “not every patient understands the consequences of the abortion procedure” and that “there are a number of patients who don’t understand the nature of the fetus within them.” These statements are insulting to pregnant people everywhere, insinuating that they could not possibly understand their own bodies or be educated enough to make such a critical private healthcare decision.

Meredith's attacks on public health and safety have not just been limited to reproductive rights. In the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Meredith led the charge against Governor Andy Beshear's emergency public health orders — orders that likely saved thousands of lives. Additionally, as a corporate attorney, Meredith defended a coal company against an EPA rule requiring the testing of groundwater for contamination. His core argument was that the rule was unlawful because it was too expensive for the company to comply with. In doing so, he made clear that protecting corporate profits takes precedence over people's fundamental right to a clean and safe environment.

These priorities are not out of character for Meredith. Just as he stood with corporate polluters over public health, he stood with corporate interests over working people. As Solicitor General of Kentucky, he defended the state's anti-union "right-to-work" law, legislation designed to weaken unions and make it harder for workers to collectively bargain for fair wages, benefits, and safe conditions. His defense of the law before the Kentucky Supreme Court furthered a longstanding campaign to undermine workers' rights and tip the scales in favor of powerful employers at the expense of working families.

Meredith has shown that he cannot exercise the judgment that the federal judiciary requires in other alarming ways as well. As an advisor to Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin, Meredith played a key role in recommending pardons and commutations, many of which were found to be deeply troubling. Among those, he appears to have recommended clemency for the brother of one of Bevin's major campaign donors — convicted in a robbery-homicide and sentenced to 19 years. This decision shows a shocking disregard for the rule of law and sparked bipartisan outrage. Even Republican Senator Mitch McConnell condemned these pardons as "completely inappropriate."

Chad Meredith's record makes clear that he would not serve the American people with impartiality and fairness but would instead bring a rigid political agenda to the federal bench. His nomination threatens to further erode public trust in our judiciary and the principle of equal justice under law. For these reasons, we ask that you oppose Chad Meredith's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Rossi". The script is fluid and cursive.

Rachel Rossi  
President, Alliance for Justice