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PRESIDENT

Rachel Rossi

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July 10, 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 Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association of nearly 140 public interest and civil rights organizations, we write to strongly oppose the nomination of Jordan Pratt to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Pratt's nomination is deeply alarming — not only because of his ideological extremism, but also due to the consistent thread running through his record: a willingness to reinterpret law in service of a rigid worldview that prioritizes religious privilege, diminishes civil rights, and threatens public safety. His confirmation would endanger numerous constitutional principles and further entrench a dangerous brand of political conservatism within the federal judiciary.

Pratt has spent his career attempting to curtail reproductive and LGBTQ+ rights, often under the pretense of religious liberty. His legal writings and advocacy reveal a troubling hostility to bodily autonomy, especially for young people. He has praised judicial decisions that deny vulnerable minors access to critical abortion care, even when those minors are seeking care through well-established legal safeguards like judicial bypass. He called one such decision a “win for pro-life advocates,” dismissing the lived realities of teenagers who cannot safely involve abusive or neglectful guardians in deeply personal medical decisions.

In case after case, Pratt has advocated for legal interpretations that permit discrimination against LGBTQ+ people — particularly transgender individuals. He has defended health care providers who refuse to refer or treat transgender patients and employers who deny coverage for gender-affirming care. In his own words, Pratt believes the “right way” to handle gender identity is to permit institutions and individuals to disregard it entirely, provided they claim a religious basis for doing so. Such a stance is not only morally indefensible — it is incompatible with the constitutional promise of equal protection.

From 2021 to 2023, Pratt served as senior counsel at First Liberty Institute, an organization devoted to expanding religious entitlements at the expense of equality, education, and public accountability. During his tenure, First Liberty helped engineer several of the Supreme Court's most sweeping rulings that dismantled the separation of church and state. Whether it was forcing public funding of religious schools, permitting public school employees to proselytize during work hours, or eroding workers' rights through expansive religious exemptions, First Liberty — and Pratt — advanced an agenda where one set of beliefs dominates all others.

Pratt's record also demonstrates a reckless disregard for public safety. He has advocated for weakening restrictions on carrying firearms in "sensitive places," including universities and federal lands. In doing so, he proposed reshaping the legal definition of these spaces using First Amendment logic — a deeply flawed analogy that would expose students, worshippers, and the general public to greater risk. He even went so far as to challenge New York's ban on guns in houses of worship, placing faith-based communities at the center of a dangerous campaign to normalize weapons in sacred and communal spaces.

When faced with a national health emergency, Pratt again chose ideology over evidence. He fought against COVID-19 vaccine requirements for military personnel and challenged indoor gathering restrictions intended to slow the spread of the virus. These cases show that even modest, temporary public health measures are unacceptable in Pratt's worldview — a worldview that places personal preference assertions above communal responsibility, safety, and science.

What's at stake in this nomination is not just one judge or one district. It's whether our courts will remain a forum for equal justice under law or continue being repurposed to serve ideological crusades.

Jordan Pratt has made clear, time and again, that his commitments lie not with the Constitution, but with a political and theological agenda. He is not a neutral arbiter of the law. He is a committed culture warrior — and no amount of judicial polish can obscure that fact.

We urge you to reject this nomination in the strongest possible terms. The integrity of our courts and the rights of millions demand nothing less.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Rossi".

Rachel Rossi
President, Alliance for Justice