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PRESIDENT

Rachel Rossi

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August 27, 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 representing nearly 140 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to strongly oppose the nomination of Robert “Bobby” Porter Chamberlin to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi.

Judge Chamberlin is not merely a jurist with conservative leanings; he is an extremist politician-turned-judge whose record reveals a consistent hostility toward reproductive freedom, LGBTQ+ equality, voting rights, and the separation of church and state. Throughout his time in the Mississippi Senate and on the state’s highest court, he weaponized the law as an instrument to entrench ideological priorities and protect powerful stakeholders while limiting the rights of everyday people and marginalized communities. His career leaves little doubt that, if given the power of a lifetime federal judgeship, he would continue this pattern of harm on a national scale with broader consequences.

Previously, when considering Judge Brindisi for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York, Republican members of this committee argued that a nominee’s time in the legislature should raise “serious concerns” about their ability to serve as an impartial judge. If Republican members believe this is true, it is difficult to understand how they could support Judge Chamberlin’s nomination. Chamberlin’s legislative record is an unbroken chain of bills and votes designed to roll back hard-won rights. To ignore this history would be to apply one standard to judicial nominees of another administration and an entirely different one for Trump’s.

Chamberlin’s legislative record makes his worldview clear. He co-sponsored a sweeping “personhood” bill that redefines even an embryo or fetus as a “human being” — a direct challenge to reproductive autonomy designed to lay the foundation for banning reproductive health care nationwide, including IVF treatments, and charging abortion patients with homicide. He introduced conscience laws empowering doctors, hospitals, and insurers to deny abortion care, which threatens life-saving emergency care, and proudly championed “Choose Life” license plates as part of his campaign against reproductive freedom.

His anti-freedom agenda was not limited to abortion: Chamberlin introduced legislation to prohibit gay couples from adopting children, spearheaded efforts to ban same-sex marriage at the federal level, and declared that Mississippi would not recognize marriages lawfully performed elsewhere. He justified these discriminatory measures as “preventative medicine,” making plain that he saw LGBTQ+ families not as equal citizens but as threats to be preemptively extinguished.

As a state supreme court justice, Chamberlin has doubled down on this rights-stripping record. He upheld a new criminal court system in Jackson — Mississippi’s majority-Black capital — that eliminates residents’ right to appeal. He also limited taxpayer standing to challenge the diversion of funds from public schools, shielded the state from accountability, and undermined education for working families. Time and again, his judicial opinions mirror the same instincts he displayed in the legislature: to narrow rights, close courthouse doors, and empower the powerful over the vulnerable.

The consistency of this record is evidence of a deep-seated ideology that views constitutional rights for marginalized communities as obstacles to be trimmed back, not guarantees to be enforced. Chamberlin has worked to blur the line between church and state, mandating “In God We Trust” in classrooms, while shielding gun manufacturers from accountability for dangerous products. His deference to entrenched power — whether religious, political, or corporate — continually comes at the expense of the people the law is meant to serve.

Confirming Chamberlin would not simply place another conservative voice on the federal bench; it would elevate a man who has spent decades bending the law to fit an ideological agenda — first as a legislator, then as a state judge. To grant him lifetime tenure on a federal court would be to guarantee that agenda an enduring foothold in our judiciary.

Senators on the committee have warned before that a nominee’s legislative career can and should raise questions about bias and impartiality. Those warnings must be heeded here because of the extremist legislative record of this nominee. Bobby Chamberlin’s record speaks for itself, and it tells us plainly that he cannot be trusted to administer equal justice under law. He is a political actor with a political agenda, one that undermines the Constitution and eviscerates fundamental rights.

For these reasons, the Alliance for Justice urges you to reject the nomination of Robert “Bobby” Porter Chamberlin to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi.

Sincerely,

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

Rachel Rossi
President, Alliance for Justice