

October 7, 2025

Senator Charles Grassley
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

We the undersigned reproductive rights, racial justice, and community advocacy groups, are writing to oppose the nomination of David Bragdon to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. We do not believe David Bragdon would be a fair and objective jurist, and we urge you to withdraw his nomination. North Carolinians deserve a federal judge who will serve them, not someone whose personal writings on capital punishment and abortion reveal extreme and troubling ideologies. His serving a lifetime appointment on the bench would threaten the rule of law, legitimize extremist beliefs, and expand state punishments like the death penalty and restrict women's and pregnant people's rights.

David Bragdon's draconian endorsement of capital punishment is tone deaf and inappropriate. In his personal writings, he rejects evidence of racial bias in North Carolina's use of capital punishment and [quotes](#) Ernest van den Haag, that the system must not "let[] the guilty blacks escape the death penalty because guilty whites do, but [to] mak[e] sure that the guilty white offenders suffer it as the guilty blacks do." He callously ends his writings by [quoting](#) a satirical *A Handbook on Hangings* from the 1920s, "[s]o away with all the sentimental tosh and let us get on with the hanging." This is particularly tone deaf and inappropriate considering North Carolina's troubling record of state sanctioned killing. Since 1976 reinstatement of the death penalty, North Carolina has carried out 43 executions, but during that same time period, also had *twelve* death row exonerations.

Bragdon's extreme rhetoric extends to anti-abortion beliefs. He [stated](#) that "our constitution protects the fetus" and "abortion is wrong because person or not, a fetus has just as much right to life as an infant does." He further equated abortion to murdering an unwanted neighbor, stating, "[i]t would be in my pursuit of happiness to kill the neighbor," claiming that "a citizen's rights end when they inflict on another person's rights." According to Bragdon, a woman with an unintended pregnancy "knew the risks" and "must face the consequences." Bragdon's malicious rhetoric is a clear attack on women and pregnant people's autonomy.

Bragdon has also attacked social welfare programs and its recipients. In his writings, he's attacked [public assistance programs](#) and villainized welfare recipients as criminals and "...characterized by idleness, illegitimacy, drugs, and crime." His disdain for people living in poverty is dangerously [rooted in a fear](#) that "equality is beginning to replace liberty as the primary principle."

These writings during his adult years demonstrate an extremism that is too dangerous for the judiciary and prove him unfit to serve as a fair and impartial juror.

For these reasons, we urge you to reject David Alan Bragdon's nomination to the U.S District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A Woman's Choice of Raleigh, A Woman's Choice of Charlotte, A Woman's Choice of Greensboro

Carolina Jews For Justice

Democracy North Carolina

Emancipate NC

Indivisible Guilford County

Indivisible Lake Norman

Ipas US

N.C. For The People Action

NAACP North Carolina State Conference

NASW-NC

Pro-Choice North Carolina

Red Wine & Blue