



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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ACTION ALERT

DATE: August 2, 2018
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

*Call your Senators
at their state office
during the
State Work Period
8-2 thru 8-14*

NAACP CALLS ON U.S. SENATE TO OPPOSE JUDGE BRETT KAVANAUGH'S NOMINATION TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

**URGE THE U.S. SENATE NOT TO CONSIDER THIS NOMINATION UNTIL AFTER
THE NOVEMBER 2018 ELECTION AND THE 116TH CONGRESS IS SWORN IN**

THE ISSUE:

On July 9, 2018, President Trump announced that he would nominate Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court to fill the vacancy of retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy. After thorough research and evaluation the NAACP opposes his nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court now.

In 2005, despite the opposition of the NAACP, Brett Kavanaugh was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. On almost every issue imaginable, Judge Kavanaugh has proven us right to have opposed him; in fact, in both his decisions and his dissents, Judge Kavanaugh has proven himself to be even more of a problematic extremist than we anticipated. On the issue of gun violence protection Judge Kavanaugh dissented from a 2011 opinion that upheld a District of Columbia ban on "assault weapons" and magazines of more than 10 rounds of bullets, plus broad registration requirements. In his dissent, Judge Kavanaugh stated that "(A) ban on a class of arms is not an incidental regulation," he wrote. "It is equivalent to a ban on a category of speech." Another issue on which we vehemently disagree with Judge Kavanaugh is his intense dislike for the Affordable Care Act (ACA, or "Obamacare"). In a case challenging the ACA, Kavanaugh wrote a dissenting opinion that would have kept alive a frivolous attack on the health care of millions of Americans. Furthermore, over and over again, Judge Kavanaugh has ruled against civil rights protections, workers' rights protections, consumer rights protections, and women's rights protections.

If Brett Kavanaugh is confirmed to a lifetime appointment on the U.S. Supreme Court, we could see reversals of hard-won gains securing equal opportunity in areas including education, employment and housing, among others. We could see further exclusion of communities of color from full participation in our democracy. We could see racism continue to flourish within the criminal justice system. We could see the elimination of effective tools for proving discrimination and addressing it. We could see the overturning of guaranteed access to quality health care for millions of Americans. The rights of African Americans and all racial and ethnic minorities to fully participate in our democracy and in every facet of political, educational, social, and economic life, on an equal basis, are on the line.

This nomination is too important to rush. This nomination should only be considered by the Senate elected by the American people in November, 2018, when they are fully aware of the stakes and after the 116th Congress is sworn in. The Court is meant to be an unbiased guardian of rights and liberties of all Americans. The country desperately needs a fair-minded and independent jurist on the Supreme Court, not a divisive and biased ideologue who will further shake the public's faith in our nation's justice system. The constitutional process for appointing and confirming the next justice must be thoughtful, careful, deliberative, and conducted with well-informed bipartisan support. The Senate should not consider a nominee until a new Senate is seated next year, after the results of the midterm election are in place. This will fully allow the American people, those who will be most affected by the confirmation, to truly have a voice in the selection of the nominee.

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact both your Senators and **URGE THEM TO REJECT THE NOMINATION OF AN EXTREMIST LIKE BRETT KAVANAUGH AND WAIT UNTIL JANUARY, 2019, TO VOTE ON A MORE MODERATE NOMINEE.**

CONTACT YOUR SENATORS DURING THEIR AUGUST DISTRICT WORK PERIOD IN THEIR HOME STATE, 8/2/2018 – 8/14/2018

✓ **TO FIND THE LOCAL OFFICE**

Go to <https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact> select your senator, and locate his or her state office nearest you.

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators' offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**

To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on "*Find Your Senators*". Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- Even the most rudimentary of reviews demonstrates that Brett Kavanaugh is an extremist who does not empathize with the very real needs of most working middle-class Americans or with the unique concerns of racial and ethnic minority Americans.
- Time and time again, Judge Kavanaugh has ruled against civil rights protections, workers' rights protections, consumer rights protections, and women's rights protections.
- The NAACP opposed Judge Kavanaugh's nomination to the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in 2005, and we oppose his nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- This nomination is too important to rush. The country desperately needs a fair-minded and independent jurist on the Supreme Court, not a divisive and biased ideologue who will further shake the public's faith in our nation's justice system.
- This nomination is too important to rush; it should only be considered by the Senate elected in November, when they are fully aware of the stakes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!

If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org

Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: THE NEXT U.S. SUPREME COURT NOMINEE

Dear Senator _____;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to oppose the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to be the next Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, to take the place of retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy. As a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Mr. Kavanaugh's record demonstrates that he is a right-wing extremist who does not empathize with the very real needs of working middle-class Americans or with the unique concerns of racial and ethnic minority Americans. This nomination is too important to rush. This nomination should only be considered by the Senate elected by the American people in November, when they are fully aware of the stakes.

The Supreme Court is meant to be an unbiased guardian of the rights and liberties of all Americans. The country desperately needs a fair-minded and independent jurist on the Court, not a divisive and biased ideologue who will further shake the public's faith in our nation's justice system. The constitutional process for appointing and confirming the next justice must be thoughtful, careful, deliberative, and conducted with well-informed bipartisan support. The Senate should not consider a nominee until a new Senate is seated next year, after the results of the midterm election are in place. This will fully allow the American people, those who will be most affected by the confirmation, to have a voice in the selection of the nominee.

If Judge Kavanaugh is confirmed to a lifetime appointment on the U.S. Supreme Court, we could see reversals of hard-won gains securing equal opportunity in areas including education, voting, employment and housing, among others. We could see further exclusion of communities of color from full participation in our democracy. We could see racism continue to flourish within the criminal justice system. We could see the elimination of effective tools for proving discrimination and addressing it. We could see the overturning of the guarantee to quality accessible health care for millions of Americans. We could see the end to any attempts at the local, state, or federal level to enact safe, sane, and sensible gun violence prevention measures. The rights of African Americans and all racial and ethnic minorities to fully participate in our democracy and in every facet of political, educational, social, and economic life, on an equal basis, is on the line.

Please contact me in the very near future and let me know what you intend to do and if there is anything more I can do to bring fairness to the Court.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

***Remember to contact
BOTH your Senators.***