



NATIONAL NETWORK
TO END DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

2001 S STREET, NW
SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, DC 20009

www.nnedv.org

January 14, 2009

Senator Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Dirksen Room 224
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Dirksen Room 152
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

On behalf of the members of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) comprising 56 state and territory domestic violence coalitions and millions of victims of domestic violence, I am pleased to express support for the nomination of Eric H. Holder, Jr. as Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Mr. Holder is supremely qualified to be the Attorney General given his distinguished legal career and record as a staunch victim-centered advocate for justice. Throughout Mr. Holder's five year tenure as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia he served with integrity, making sound decisions that held offenders accountable. As the first African American appointed as United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, Mr. Holder instituted a Domestic Violence Unit to address the growing caseload following the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which criminalized domestic violence. Further, following his appointment as Deputy Attorney General, Mr. Holder aggressively prosecuted interstate domestic violence crimes and offered significant guidance on how to implement VAWA.

Mr. Holder recognizes that in order to break the cycle of violence and curb criminal behavior, greater attention must be focused on programs addressing prevention and intervention. While serving as the Deputy Attorney General, Mr. Holder started a Child and Family Abuse Unit – a model unit specifically focused on these crimes. In addition, Mr. Holder demonstrates his personal commitment to these issues through his involvement with numerous community youth organizations.

The Department of Justice needs a leader with a superior legal mind, well-versed on the complexities of legal issues facing our nation. The Department of Justice needs a leader who will not compromise the integrity of the law for personal gain. Most importantly, the Department of Justice needs a leader who will tenaciously fight for victims and who will support the funding and implementation of key programs that aid in breaking the cycle of violence.

Mr. Holder is exceptionally qualified to lead the U.S. Department of Justice as Attorney General and I am certain that his leadership will greatly benefit victims. NNEDV urges his swift confirmation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tralonne R. Shorter, Public Policy Director at the National Network to End Domestic Violence at 202.543.5566 or via email at tshorter@nnedv.org.

Sincerely,

Sue Else
President