Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

September 21, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Grassley Chairman Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate 226 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diane Feinstein Ranking Member Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate 425 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Re: Call for a full investigation of the allegations by Dr. Blasey Ford against Judge Kavanaugh

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) is deeply concerned by the serious allegations of sexual assault raised by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford against Judge Brett Kavanaugh. We urge conducting an independent investigation of this matter before moving to another hearing. Considering Dr. Ford's serious allegations and the national upheaval around sexual misconduct, rushing to a vote on this nomination would be highly inappropriate.

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice has long trained interfaith clergy to provide non-judgmental counseling to women making their own independent decisions about their reproductive lives. We understand the deeply personal, complex nature of the process women go through in sorting out the impact of experiences such as the encounter Dr. Ford has described with Judge Kavanaugh. Intense public scrutiny in Dr. Ford's case only makes this more complicated for her.

In case you are unfamiliar with our organization, we are a broad-based, national, interfaith movement that brings the moral force of religion to protect and advance reproductive health, choice, rights and justice through education, prophetic witness, pastoral presence and advocacy.

We trust women and respect their ability to discern their own proper courses of action.

Once Dr. Ford's confidential accusations became public, she courageously decided to tell her story. We hope the Committee will show its respect for Dr. Ford by conducting an investigation by professionals who have worked with survivors of trauma.

Few Senate responsibilities carry more lasting effects than evaluating a nominee for a lifetime seat on our highest court. We urge you to conduct a fair, non-partisan and thorough process.

Sincerely,

Delia Allen-O'Brien

Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson

Lisa Weiner-Mahfuz

Executive Directors

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