July 14, 2017 Eric Babson babson@math.ucdavis.edu 1094 Cragmont Avenue Berkeley CA, 94708

## Dear Senator Harris:

I am very concerned by federal court appointments. There are more than 100 appeals court vacancies and the administration appears to be ramping up nominations. The people receiving these nominations are frightening and the administration putting a generation long mark on our court system is illegitimate as highlighted by the weekend admission of conspiracy by Donald Trump Jr. The Federalist society appears to be the go-to for recommendations as it was for the supreme court and while I was not sure what to expect from Justice Gorsuch, his bizarrely vicious decisions such as the dissents on gun rights and same-sex marriage birth certificates have been horrifying. At this point the courts are helping to keep this administration in check. I fear this will not last.

Please assure me that you will use blue slips and any other means to keep the court independent.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our independent judiciary.

Sincerely, Eric Babson