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April 17, 2015

Senate Majority Leader McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senate Majority Leader:

Over five months ago, Loretta Lynch was nominated to be the next Attorney General of the United States of America and the first African American woman nominated to the post. With a stellar record, bipartisan support and the historic nature of her nomination, many people believed that this confirmation would have few hurdles to cross. However, stymied by partisanship over an unrelated bill, she has yet to receive a vote on her nomination by the full Senate and the rights of the American people are left in the balance.

United as a civil and human rights community, we request action by you to call the vote for Ms. Lynch to be confirmed. Just this week, a US District Judge was unanimously confirmed by the Senate, yet the hypocrisy of that confirmation is that the nation's top legal representative has not been given her due process and has been used as a political bargaining chip. We cannot allow this to continue to happen on our watch.

Ms. Lynch has already been twice unanimously confirmed by the Senate for her role as US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. Throughout her career, she has shown that she is more than capable of handling the responsibilities of the job of Attorney General. Because her qualifications have never been called into question, it is unfathomable that she has yet to receive a vote. We need the leadership of the next Attorney General in place as we deal with issues like racial profiling, bans on marriage equality, laws restricting the right to vote, immigration challenges and so much more. While we may be on opposing sides of these issues, there has to be agreement that the role of government is to work for all the people, not just those who share similar ideologies to the people in leadership. We are not telling the Senate how to vote, but we are urging Senate to get to the business of calling a vote in order to move us forward as a nation.

There is an injustice allowing Loretta Lynch to hang in the balance and in blocking this nomination. We ask you to schedule a vote and allow Loretta Lynch to be confirmed. Justice delayed is justice denied and by not moving swiftly to a vote, you are standing in the way of progress. Ms. Lynch has waited longer than the last seven nominees for the position combined and it is the longest wait for a cabinet-level nomination in the last three administrations. The time has come to call a vote on Loretta Lynch's nomination.

Sincerely,

Reverend Al Sharpton, Founder & President
National Action Network

Mee Moua, President
Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Brent Wilkes, National Executive Director
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Cornell Willam Brooks, President & CEO
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Sharon J. Lettman-Hicks, Executive Director & CEO
National Black Justice Coalition

Melanie L. Campbell, President & CEO
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
and Convener of the Black Women's Roundtable

Terry O'Neill, President
National Organization of Women (NOW)

Marc Morial, President & CEO
National Urban League

Maria Teresa Kumar, Founding President & CEO
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