

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Room 521, Cannon House Office Building,
25 Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
Room 2267, Rayburn House Office Building,
50 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and House Minority Leader Jeffries,

We, the undersigned organizations, represent a broad and diverse group of nonpartisan nonprofits who are committed to ensuring our nation has a transparent, democratic and accountable government. In line with these goals, we write to strongly urge you to oppose the passage of the [District of Columbia Attorney General Appointment Reform Act of 2025](#) (H.R. 5179 in the 119th Congress), which, if enacted, would take power away from the people of the District of Columbia and place it directly into the hands of the president.

The DC attorney general plays a crucial role in ensuring the laws of the District of Columbia are upheld and duly enforced. The “District of Columbia Attorney General Appointment Reform Act of 2025” would grant the president the power to fire the democratically elected attorney general of DC, and replace them with a new attorney general of the president’s choosing. Attorneys general are tasked to [serve and defend the people](#), not the president or the federal government. Across the United States, currently [43 of the 50](#) state attorneys general, as well as DC, are directly elected by the people of those states. Giving the president direct authority over selecting the DC attorney general would break with the country-wide tradition of electing attorneys general and further diminish the District’s limited autonomy, which has already been under attack.

It is unsurprising that this legislation is coming forward now, given that over the past year, the DC attorney general has brought several lawsuits against the Trump administration, including the ongoing lawsuit against President Trump’s [deployment of the National Guard](#) in the city. But the DC attorney general’s litigation against the Trump administration is only a small sliver of the office’s crucial work. In 2024 alone the DC attorney general secured over [\\$661 million in savings and benefits](#) for DC residents through its work standing up to slumlords, defending District workers, cracking down on deceptive business practices and protecting kids and seniors. With a budget of \$153.7 million, the DC attorney general’s work generated a 330% return on investment in 2024 alone. By passing H.R. 5179, Congress would be putting all of this crucial work at risk.

Perhaps most concerningly, H.R. 5179 will irreparably harm prosecutorial independence. In a democracy, prosecutors are meant to remain independent and politically unbiased so that there is a separation between politics and the criminal justice system. In recent years however, challenges to the independence and integrity of prosecutors have rapidly increased. At the federal level in the past year alone we have seen unprecedented weaponization of the Department of Justice by President Trump to use the levers of government to carry out his own interests and target his political “enemies” for criminal prosecution. To that end, President Trump has repeatedly encouraged the justice system to open investigations into and indict lawmakers, judges and civil servants who have opposed his political agenda, including repeated attempts to indict New York Attorney General Letitia James after James brought a successful civil fraud case against Trump in 2022. Given his track record, there is every reason to fear that giving President Trump the ability to select the DC attorney general would lead to that institution being weaponized as well—and, as a result, the crucial work that it does to protect DC residents would be put in jeopardy.

The residents of DC deserve an independent, democratically elected attorney general who fights for the best interests of the people. The District of Columbia Attorney General Appointment Reform Act of 2025 is an affront to democracy and we strongly urge members of Congress to vote against the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

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Alliance for Justice
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Citizens for Ethics and Responsibility in Washington (CREW)
Clean Elections Texas
Common Cause
Democracy 21
Democracy Defenders Action
End Citizens United
Fair and Just Prosecution
Franciscan Action Network
League of Conservation Voters
National Association of Consumer Advocates
National Women’s Law Center Action Fund
People For the American Way
Public Citizen
Secure Elections Network
Voices for Progress
Women Thinking Out Loud

CC: House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform