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March 18, 2015

Senator Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
United States Capitol
Room S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

We write to urge you to bring the nomination of the Honorable Loretta Lynch for the position of Attorney General of the United States to the Senate floor for consideration without further delay. As incumbent Attorney Eric Holder has expressed his intention to leave office, we believe it important as a matter of constitutional significance to conclude this process and ensure a seamless transition process for a continued steady hand at the Justice Department.

Loretta Lynch has a distinguished legal career as a well-respected lawyer and federal prosecutor in the Eastern District of New York. Having zealously prosecuted cases involving public corruption, narcotics and violent crime, Ms. Lynch has the perfect set of professional credentials and possesses high moral character and integrity.

As you are aware, the nomination of Ms. Lynch has been pending for over four months and has been subject to delay for reasons wholly unrelated to her qualifications. Your most recent announcement that her nomination will be subject to further delay, pending Senate consideration of abortion-related restrictions in anti-human trafficking legislation, is unfortunate given the Department's role in the enforcement of trafficking statutes. To elevate debate of a single provision of this bill over the nomination of Department leadership seems contrary to the commitment to protect the interests of federal law enforcement at a time when the nation faces numerous threats, both foreign and domestic.

The nomination of Ms. Lynch for Attorney General has experienced the lengthiest delay in three decades. Given that she has been twice confirmed, faced no substantive issues and emerged from the Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support, there can be no credible reason for further delay. We urge you to act in the national interest by scheduling the historic Lynch nomination for an up or down vote before the next Congressional recess.

Sincerely,