

BRENNA BIRD
ATTORNEY GENERAL



1305 E. WALNUT ST.
DES MOINES, IA 50319
515-281-5164
www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Honorable John Thune
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Supporting Federal Bureau of Investigation
Director Nominee Kash Patel**

Dear Leader Thune and Leader Schumer:

Kash Patel is the leader that the Federal Bureau of Investigation needs. The FBI has long been a beacon for hardworking and impressive investigators—but their leadership has failed both those brave men and women as well as the country. The FBI needs a smart, competent, reformer as its leader. Mr. Patel is the man for the job.

As Attorneys General for our respective States familiar with the operations of justice departments, we have in the past weighed in on past nominees for the United States Department of Justice positions or when our own colleagues have been nominated. And we take the rule of law seriously. Many of us are also the chief law enforcement officers in our States—and we all partner with the federal government and FBI when needed to ensure justice is done. That the FBI is run well is important to us—and who runs the FBI is important to us, too.

That is why we, as the Attorneys General of Iowa, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia write you today to strongly encourage you and your caucuses to support Mr. Patel's nomination for Director of the FBI.

Americans have a crisis in confidence in FBI's leadership. Years of scandal, [including baseless investigations](#) into President Trump have shaken the nation's trust in the agency. Rather than focusing on investigating crime

and America's domestic threats, the FBI seems [oddly focused](#) on investigating President Trump. It is time for a leader to refocus the FBI on its core mission.

Mr. Patel has served in roles that require high degrees of competence, determination, and trust. Former White House national security advisor Robert O'Brien [recently wrote](#) that Mr. Patel could be counted on "to get any job done, no matter how complex or difficult." That type of experience is invaluable. O'Brien continued to explain Mr. Patel's key role in taking down the ISIS caliphate. We can hope that he can help refocus the FBI on dismantling terrorist organizations like ISIS, which is seeking to infiltrate the United States and [away from wasting its time](#) investigating Catholics for seeking a Latin mass. Hopefully, Mr. Patel can also stop the agency from [labeling parents extremists](#) just for expressing their views to school officials on issues regarding their children's education and safety.

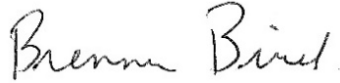
He also has played key roles in increasing transparency and stands to further that goal if confirmed. In his role as national security advisor to the House Intelligence Committee, Mr. Patel helped Congress [uncover FISA abuses](#) and illegal politically motivated surveillance into President Trump's campaign.

Mr. Patel's resume speaks to his impeccable qualifications for this job. He served as [chief of staff to the Department of Defense](#) and as deputy director of national intelligence. Before accepting those high-powered roles, Mr. Patel was a national security prosecutor at the DOJ and even a public defender earlier in his career. His longstanding and diverse legal experiences will serve him well.

The American people have spoken and given President Trump a historic victory and mandate to be a change agent and enact reform. And few institutions need reform more than the FBI. Mr. Patel's sterling character and qualifications strongly commend this august body to exercise its constitutional function and consent to his nomination.

In these increasingly partisan times, unifiers like President Trump need support from precisely the type of highly competent and qualified nominees like Mr. Patel. His willingness to stand up for what is right will be invaluable in reforming the FBI and restoring trust in the institution worthy of the brave men and women that serve in its ranks.

Sincerely,



Brenna Bird
Attorney General of Iowa



Steve Marshall
Attorney General of Alabama



Treg Taylor
Attorney General of Alaska



Tim Griffin
Attorney General of Arkansas



Ashley Moody
Attorney General of Florida



Chris Carr
Attorney General of Georgia



Raúl R. Labrador
Attorney General of Idaho



Todd Rokita
Attorney General of Indiana



Kris Kobach
Attorney General of Kansas



Liz Murrill
Attorney General of Louisiana



Lynn Fitch
Attorney General of Mississippi



Andrew T. Bailey
Attorney General of Missouri



Austin Knudsen
Attorney General of Montana



Mike Hilgers
Attorney General of Nebraska



Jonathan Skrmetti
Attorney General of Tennessee



Drew Wrigley
Attorney General of North Dakota



Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas



Dave Yost
Attorney General of Ohio



Sean D. Reyes
Attorney General of Utah



Gentner Drummond
Attorney General of Oklahoma



Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General of Virginia



Alan Wilson
Attorney General of South Carolina



Patrick Morrissey
Attorney General of West Virginia



Marty Jackley
Attorney General of South Dakota