



URGENT ACTION ALERT



CALL NOW

DATE: January 30, 2017
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

**JEFF SESSIONS' CONFIRMATION TO BE US ATTORNEY GENERAL VOTE
BY THE FULL JUDICIARY COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2017 AT 9:30 A.M. EASTERN TIME
CALL MEMBERS OF THE US SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE TO URGE A "NO" VOTE ON
THE SESSIONS' CONFIRMATION**

THE ISSUE:

Senate Judiciary Committee hearings were held on January 10 – 11, 2017, on whether or not Senator Jefferson "Jeff" Beauregard Sessions III (Alabama) should be the 84th Attorney General of the United States. The first day, which was attended by a bus load of members of the Alabama State Conference of NAACP Branches was almost entirely dominated by Senator Sessions; on the second day the committee heard from 15 witnesses on two panels, some in favor of the nomination and some opposed. Included in those opposing the nomination were NAACP President and CEO Cornell William Brooks; Senator Cory Booker (NJ); Congressman John Lewis (GA); Congressman Cedric Richardson (LA), the new Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; and David Cole, the Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). President Brooks lead the group saying "Senator Sessions' record conclusively demonstrates that he lacks the judgment and temperament to serve effectively as Attorney General of the United States. Senator Sessions' record throughout his career...evinces a clear disregard, disrespect, and even disdain for the civil and human rights of racial and ethnic minorities, women, the disabled, and others who suffer from discrimination in this country."

President Brooks went on to demonstrate that as a U.S. Senator, Sen. Sessions has consistently opposed many of the very crucial laws and programs for which he will be responsible for enforcing at the US Department of Justice, and that he has earned an average score of just over 10% out of 100% on the NAACP Civil Rights Federal Legislative Report Card throughout his 19 years as a US Senator. Specifically, to name but a few of the troubling positions taken by Sen. Sessions which were opposed by the NAACP, he consistently voted against the expansion of the *Hate Crimes Prevention Act*; he has consistently opposed safe, sane and sensible measures to stem the plague of gun violence across our country; he voted against the reauthorization of the *Violence Against Women Act*; he has supported discriminatory requirement for photo identification when voting; and he has worked to prevent legislation which would repair and restore the 1965 *Voting Rights Act* among other troubling policy positions

In addition to his woeful voting record, Senator Sessions has also voiced policy and opinions which are diametrically opposed, and in too many cases, directly hurtful to the NAACP and the communities we serve. Specifically, he has referred to the NAACP as "un-American" and "Communist-inspired" because we "forced civil rights down the throats of people." He has also accused the NAACP and other like-minded groups of teaching anti-American values. In 2015, Senator Sessions said that calls to remove the Confederate flag from public buildings are among efforts by "the left" to "delegitimize the fabulous accomplishments of our country"; and in 2006 he referred to the 1965 *Voting Rights Act* during its reauthorization as "a piece of intrusive legislation."

Speaking at the historic Women's March on Washington, DC, on Jan. 21, 2017, NAACP National Board of Directors Chairman [Roslyn M. Brock](#), speaking to the hundreds of thousands in attendance and to the millions more watching around the world, stated that we must recognize the dangers in extreme nominees such as Jeff Sessions urged all Americans to oppose his confirmation. Also, [President and CEO Cornell William Brooks and Greenpeace Executive Director Annie Leonard](#) are calling on people to contact their lawmakers.

Given his past record of dismal regard for basic civil, human, Constitutional and voting rights, the NAACP opposes the nomination of Senator Sessions to serve as US Attorney General. **A vote by the full Senate Judiciary Committee on whether or not to send his nomination forward to the full US Senate with a positive recommendation has been scheduled for Tues., 1/31/17.** We urge every Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee to oppose this nomination.

More...

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact both your Senators, **ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**, and **URGE THEM TO OPPOSE THE NOMINATION OF SENATOR JEFF SESSIONS TO SERVE AS ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.** To contact your Senators you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to their offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

~~**Write a Letter**~~

To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

Send a Fax

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on "*Find Your Senators*". Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- Throughout his careers as a U.S. Senator, the Attorney General for the State of Alabama, the US Attorney and the Assistant US Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, Jeff Sessions has demonstrated a clear disrespect for and opposition to the advancement and protection of the civil, human, voting and Constitutional rights and needs of all Americans;
- Jeff Sessions' voting record on the civil rights agenda of the NAACP while in the U.S. Senate is indicative of his disregard for many of the laws and programs for which he will be responsible for enforcing. During his tenure in the U.S. Senate, he has voted against key civil rights laws and programs such as the *Hate Crimes Prevention Act*, the *Violence Against Women Act*, and gun violence prevention initiatives. Every single year while in the U.S. Senate, Jeff Sessions has received an "F" on the NAACP's Federal Legislative Civil Rights Report Card;
- Senator Sessions has also made derogatory comments about the NAACP and the 1965 Voting Rights Act and he has spoken of the Confederate Battle Flag, and all that it represents, in glowing terms.
- [In a strongly worded letter and testimony submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee](#) in 1986, Coretta Scott King, the wife of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., opposed the confirmation of Jeff Sessions to the position of judge for the US District Court for the Southern District of Alabama

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!

If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org

**No time
for a
letter!
Call,
e-mail,
or fax!**

Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: OPPOSITION TO THE CONFIRMATION OF JEFF SESSIONS TO SERVE AS ATTORNEY
GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES**

Dear Senator _____;

As your constituent, I am writing to express my deep opposition to the confirmation of Senator Jeff Sessions to serve as U.S. Attorney General. Throughout his careers, first in the office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, then as the Attorney General for the state of Alabama, and most recently as the U.S. Senator from Alabama, Senator Sessions has shown a clear disrespect for the civil rights and human rights and needs of all people; he has shown a striking disregard for the very laws, policies, and programs for which he would be responsible for protecting and promoting as U.S. Attorney General; and he has demonstrated an obvious disdain for groups with which he disagrees, which are very often the same groups which have been struggling for years, if not centuries, to compel our country to live up to its Constitutional promise of equality and every American being able to pursue "life, liberty, and happiness."

As has been copiously documented, through his words, his actions, and his voting record as the junior Senator from Alabama for the past twenty years, Senator Sessions is not the right person to serve as Attorney General of the United States. He has demonstrated a clear disrespect, disregard, and even disdain for the very laws, policies, and programs which have been put into place to protect the rights of the American people.

How can we give our approval to a man to enforce and maintain the laws, policies and programs of our country which he has opposed so many times as a US Senator?

In closing, I urge you again, in the strongest terms possible, to oppose the confirmation of Jefferson Beauregard "Jeff" Sessions III to serve as US Attorney General of the United States. Please contact me in the very near future and let me know how you intend to vote on this crucial nomination and what more I can do to help you prevent his confirmation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

***Remember to contact
BOTH your U.S. Senators.***

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, 2017

NAME	STATE	PHONE NUMBER (in Washington DC)	ADDRESS (in Washington DC)
CHUCK GRASSLEY	Iowa	(202)224-5225	135 HART
DIANNE FEINSTEIN	California	(202) 224-3841	331 HART
ORRIN HATCH	Utah	(202) 224-5251	104 HART
PATRICK LEAHY	Vermont	(202) 224-4242	437 RUSSELL
LINDSEY GRAHAM	South Carolina	(202) 224-5972	290 RUSSELL
DICK DURBIN	Illinois	(202) 224-2152	711 HART
MICHAEL LEE	Utah	(202) 224-5444	361A RUSSELL
AMY KLOBUCHAR	Minnesota	(202) 224-3244	302 HART
TED CRUZ	Texas	(202) 224-5922	404 RUSSELL
AL FRANKEN	Minnesota	(202) 224-5641	309 HART
SEN SASSE	Nebraska	(202) 224-4224	386A RUSSELL
CHRISTOPHER COONS	Delaware	(202) 224-5042	127A RUSSELL
JEFF FLAKE	Arizona	(202) 224-4521	413 RUSSELL
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL	Connecticut	(202) 224-2823	706 HART
MIKE CRAPO	Idaho	(202) 224-6142	631 DIRKSEN
MAZIE HIRONO	Hawaii	(202) 224-6361	330 HART
THOM TILLIS	North Carolina	(202) 224-6342	185 DIRKSEN
JOHN KENNEDY	Louisiana	(202) 224-4623	B11 RUSSELL