

September 19, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

The ERISA Industry Committee (“ERIC”) strongly supports the nomination of Eugene Scalia to Secretary of Labor and encourages the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to vote favorably on his nomination. Mr. Scalia’s experience both as Solicitor of Labor and Acting Solicitor of Labor as well as at a major law firm handling relevant legal matters makes him uniquely qualified to head the Department of Labor (“DOL”). Representing the views of large employers that provide health and retirement coverage to millions of their own employees and families across the country, we believe that it is critical for the Secretary of Labor to understand the importance of employee benefits and the impact on the nation’s workforce.

ERIC is the only national trade association that advocates exclusively for large employers on health, retirement, and compensation public policies on the federal, state, and local levels. ERIC member companies operate in every industry sector and most have employees or retirees in every state. As such, the work of the DOL has a significant impact on the ability of our member companies to continue providing generous employee benefits to workers and retirees across the nation. We believe that Mr. Scalia is the right person for this job.

Mr. Scalia’s experience in the Solicitor’s Office at the DOL provides him with an in-depth knowledge of the DOL that will allow him to immediately engage on substantive issues. Also, as a former Solicitor of Labor, he has worked with all of the laws DOL is charged with administering and enforcing including the important Employee Retirement Income Security Act (“ERISA”).

As an employee benefits organization, we are most impressed with Mr. Scalia’s experience with ERISA. In addition to his work at the DOL, he has done significant work in private practice to ensure that employers are able to continue providing voluntary health care and retirement benefits, including working to preserve federal ERISA preemption which is critical to large multi-state employers that offer benefits to employees and their families in every community in the country, as well as the fiduciary requirements under ERISA. These examples demonstrate that Mr. Scalia has a deep

understanding of an area of labor law that is complicated and very important to the lives of millions of Americans who rely heavily on employer-provided health care and retirement benefits.

For all of the reasons above, ERIC urges a positive vote on the nomination of Eugene Scalia as Secretary of Labor. We are happy to answer any questions or provide additional information. We appreciate the opportunity to share our support for Mr. Scalia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Annette Harris-Felds".