



For Immediate Release

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Contact:

John Neurohr, john@whycourtsmatterpa.org

STATEMENT: On Attempt to Confirm Obstructed Federal Judicial Nominations — Including PA Judges

PENNSYLVANIA – It was announced this morning that Senate Democrats would ask for unanimous consent to confirm judicial nominees to federal courts across the country that have been waiting months for a floor vote. Some of the nominees would fill positions on courts that have been declared judicial emergencies. All nominees were approved by voice vote in the Judiciary Committee. In Pennsylvania, U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Paradise Baxter and Butler County Court of Common Pleas Judge Marilyn Jean Horan were approved by voice vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee in January, and have the support of both Senator Casey and Senator Toomey.

That request was denied by Senate Republicans.

Christine Stone, Co-Chair of the Why Courts Matter - PA Coalition made the following statement on the news:

“Today, Senator Hirono (D-HI) offered unanimous consent for votes on eleven Federal Court nominees languishing on the Senate Floor, including two from Pennsylvania. Senator Mitch McConnell objected. The continued delay on the nominations of Magistrate Susan Baxter from Erie and Judge Marilyn Horan from Butler are yet another example of the of the irresponsible, partisan blockade that we have seen for judicial vacancies at every level: District Court, Circuit and Supreme Court.

“In Pennsylvania, six vacancies plague our Federal Courts. As we've seen with the obstruction of Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court, dozens of other outstanding federal court vacancies, many of which have well-qualified nominees awaiting hearings or votes in the Senate Judiciary Committee, are left unfilled. We call on Senator Toomey and his colleagues to do their job by pressuring Republican leadership to allow exemplary nominees like Judges Baxter and Horan, to have a full Senate vote right away.”

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Why Courts Matter PA is a coalition of organizations and advocates who have come together to ensure that our federal courts work to the benefit of all Americans in keeping with the core constitutional values of liberty, equality and justice for all. WCM-PA supports an appointment and confirmation process that identifies and provides timely confirmation votes for well-qualified nominees for federal judgeships who are dedicated to fairness and impartiality. Learn more about WCM-PA [here](#).