

Hon. Charles Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

September 5, 2018

Dear Democratic Leader Schumer,

The Supreme Court is on the line, and you are failing us.

No senator who cares about our democracy should let a criminal co-conspirator like Donald Trump put anyone on the Supreme Court, and certainly not a nominee like Brett Kavanaugh. Kavanaugh is an extremist who will help institutionalize Trump's hate for a generation. He will end women's access to abortion, decimate Obamacare, supercharge voter suppression and gut the EPA. He could be Trump's get-out-of-jail free card when it comes to the Mueller investigation.

Your job as Senate Democratic leader is to lead your caucus in complete opposition to Trump's attempted Supreme Court takeover and to defend everyone threatened by a Trump Supreme Court. But unbelievably, nearly two dozen Democrats have still not come out against Kavanaugh, and just last week, you helped Majority Leader Mitch McConnell fast track 15 Trump judicial nominees. That is not the leadership we need.

The only chance to stop Kavanaugh's confirmation is for every single Democrat to hold the line against him – not at the last minute when it's time to vote, but as a united Democratic caucus that proudly stands up for women, Muslims, immigrants, LGBTQ people, people of color, workers, consumers, voting rights, our democracy and our planet.

Holding 49 Democrats is the only way we can succeed in pressuring flippable Republicans like Sens. Collins and Murkowski to listen to the Mainers and Alaskans who are demanding that they vote no on a judge who will deprive women control over their own bodies. If you hold your caucus together, you force them to have to make a real choice, with very real consequences for their constituents. If you fail, you let them off the hook.

Your strategy to sacrifice the Supreme Court in order to hold Democratic Senate seats is not only strategically and morally wrong, it will fail. It is wrong to assume that a no vote on Kavanaugh puts red-state Democrats in electoral peril or somehow protects them from Republican attacks. Voters in West Virginia, North Dakota, Indiana, Missouri, Montana and Alabama care deeply about women having control over the bodies, protecting the health of their families, clean air and water, defending our democracy, and standing up to greedy billionaires and racist politicians who are using our differences to scare and distract us while they line their pockets. Those voters will reward a principled vote on this crucial nomination.

The Democratic Party's progressive base expects nothing less than all-out resistance to Trump's dangerous agenda. They want to elect candidates who will stand up for the people Trump threatens, not ones who compromise or cower as he and Republicans run the table in Congress and the courts. They understand the stakes of this Supreme Court fight. They know that we can win, but only if you lead. And they know that anything less than 49 Democratic votes against Kavanaugh would be a massive failure of your leadership.

We hope you won't let us down,

CREDO

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UltraViolet

350.org

Color Of Change

DailyKos

Demand Progress

Friends of the Earth

Justice Democrats

Social Security Works

#VOTeprochoice

Women's March