Brett Kavanaugh: A Threat to Our Nation’s Democracy

As a person of faith, I believe that the confirmation of U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh poses a serious threat to our nation’s democracy.

President Trump, who nominated Kavanaugh, was recently implicated as an unindicted co-conspirator in federal crimes related to his own election. An ongoing investigation into his campaign’s collusion with a foreign government has already yielded guilty pleas from his campaign manager, National Security Adviser, foreign policy adviser and personal attorney. The president must not be allowed to appoint a judge who could decide the fate of this ongoing investigation.

Kavanaugh supports an unprecedented level of power and immunity for the President of the United States. In a 2009 law review article, Kavanaugh said that a sitting President should be exempt from criminal prosecution and investigation, including questioning by prosecutors or defense counsel.

Furthermore, Kavanaugh has upheld a South Carolina voter ID law that disproportionately excludes eligible African-American voters. Americans deserve a Supreme Court justice who’s committed to protecting democracy for all. Kavanaugh presents an immediate danger to black and brown Americans seeking unfettered access to the ballot box.

The court’s powers are vast. The justices’ rulings impact everything from who is denied health care and who is turned away from voting, and who is separated from their children. The Supreme Court will have numerous opportunities to advance or reverse justice. They will rule on the fate of millions of young immigrants, gerrymandered congressional districts that undermine democracy, the rights of businesses to refuse service to LGBTQ people, and even attacks on the Affordable Care Act that could strip healthcare from millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions. These situations cry out for justice.

We need a justice who rules with justice, protecting the people that our faiths call us to side with: our neighbors who are sick, who are poor, who are beaten down, who are disenfranchised. Kavanaugh’s record does not suggest that he will rule with this kind of justice.

We call on all U.S. senators to exercise wisdom and vote no on Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court.
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