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Senator Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senator for Iowa

Dear Senator Grassley:

On August 14, 2025, President Trump nominated Rebecca Taibleson to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. As you know, Ms. Taibleson received a ranking of “priority stop” from the Center for Judicial Renewal as she does not meet the constitutionalist standard for nomination to the federal bench. Though there are some positive items in Taibleson’s record, there are also major concerns that ought not to be ignored, particularly given the significance of a seat on a federal circuit court.

We ask that you please oppose the nomination of Rebecca Taibleson and vote “no” on advancing her nomination for the reasons included below:

Taibleson served on the board of a pre-school affiliated with a pro-LGBT Christian church.

- Taibleson shared in her Senate Judiciary Committee Questionnaire that she belonged to the “Tree of Life Preschool Board” from 2021-2022.¹ Presumably “Tree of Life Preschool” refers to “Tree of Life Christian Preschool” in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.² Taibleson worked for the Milwaukee-based U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin during that time.³
- The school’s website states, “Tree of Life is a non-profit ministry of the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay.”⁴
- As early as 2015, the United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay had an “***LGBT Advocacy Ministry***” that was showing a heretical film called “***Camp-Out***,” that the church described as “***a unique film exposure to gay and lesbian teens at an all-gay Bible camp. Christian counselors work to promote the campers’ greater acceptance and understanding of homosexuality, while attempting to reconcile it with a Christian belief system.***”⁵
- In 2018, the church shared about a new series “Living Our Principles, Living Out Faith” that would entail “***dialogue on subjects including the environment, gender and family issues, human rights, and more!***”⁶
- In 2019, “Reconciling Ministries Network” “welcome[d] [] the newest Reconciling Community of the movement: the Church & Society Committee of United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay in Whitefish Bay, WI!”⁷ The Church & Society team remains a member of Reconciling Ministries Network,⁸ which is “***committed to intersectional justice across and beyond the United Methodist connection, working for the full participation of all LGBTQ+ people throughout the life and leadership of the Church.***”⁹
- In 2022, Tree of Life Preschool’s website featured accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (“NAEYC”), a radical leftist organization that promotes the evil of confusing young children about their gender.¹⁰

- In August 2022, the NAEYC website featured a publication entitled “*Tate and the Pink Coat: Exploring Gender and Enacting Anti-Bias Principles*” that concerningly explained, “*We believe it is never too early to positively support young children’s gender exploration,*” and “*Gender-inclusive classrooms promote an anti-bias atmosphere in which all children can explore and grow.*”¹¹ Advice for teachers to “support gender diversity in [their] classroom” included “*Respect young children’s descriptions of themselves, such as ‘I’m a boygirl!’ or ‘Today, I am going to be the princessboy.’*”¹²

Taibleson and her husband are members of or affiliated with the politically liberal Congregation Emanuel B’ne Jeshurun (“CEEBJ”) that promotes LGBTQ+ ideologies, abortion, and leftist “Get out the Vote” organizations.

- The Taiblesons’ anniversary is listed in a July 2025 CEEBJ bulletin,¹³ and they were listed as volunteers at the congregation in 2018.¹⁴
- The most prominent statement at the top of the homepage for the congregation describes it being pro “LGBTQ+;”¹⁵ the website also states that the congregation hosts guest speakers on a range of issues, including “*immigration, reproductive rights ...*”¹⁶
- Additionally, the congregation promotes its affiliation with the judicially-activist Union for Reform Judaism (“URJ”) which proudly *opposes the judicial philosophy of originalism* because it prevents their political positions on *abortion, transgenderism, guns, and separation of church and state*.¹⁷
 - URJ opposes the judicial philosophy of originalism: “Judge Barrett’s confirmation would place an ‘*originalist*’ majority on the Court . . . that would likely undercut and reverse positions for which we have fought in Congress and espoused in the courts for much of the past century.” They also opposed Barrett on the ground that she had “restrictive views of existing legal rights of *transgender* individuals.”¹⁸
 - URJ opposed Justice Kavanaugh, arguing he would “curtail women’s *reproductive rights*, weaken workers’ rights, oppose *gun violence* prevention measures, threaten the protections of *freedom of religion* by breaking down the *separation of church and state*, challenge *environmental protections*, and undermine *voting rights*.”¹⁹
 - URJ promotes “*all gender identities and gender expressions*,”²⁰ and “[u]rges the adoption and implementation of legislation and policies that prevent discrimination based on *gender identity and expression*.”²¹
- In 2024 and presently, CEEBJ encourages “Volunteer Opportunities” with “Get out the Vote” election partners – all of which are liberal: “Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Souls to the Polls, and WIVEC – Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign.”²²
 - Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, a radical pro-LGBT group, states, “[W]e cannot and will not remain silent in the face of injustice towards our *LGBTQ+ colleagues, congregants, family, friends, and neighbors*.”²³ Citizens are asked to “reach out to [their] representatives,”²⁴ with a link to a page entitled, “*Tell the Senate to Protect Trans Health*.”²⁵
 - WIVEC is hosting an October 2025 talk: “*Confronting Christian Nationalism*.”²⁶
 - “Souls to the Polls WI” in a not-so-veiled shot at President Trump opposes “[a] whirlwind of *executive orders and policies* ... attacking Medicaid and Medicare, and threatening even more When *election season comes, you’ll know who stood behind these policies*—and who is truly looking out for your best interests.”²⁷

It appears that the rabbi whom the Taiblesons chose to perform their wedding currently serves at a pro-LGBT congregation.²⁸

- Rabbi Lyle A. Fishman married the Taiblesons; it appears that he is the same Lyle A. Fishman who is rabbi emeritus at Ohr Kodesh Congregation,²⁹ which is overtly pro-transgender, has a rainbow menorah on its website, an “LGBTQ Inclusion Task Force,” and states that it partners with “a leading national *LGBTQ advocacy organization* . . . to support and advocate for the *LGBTQ community*.”³⁰

In 2019, Taibleson donated to the Milwaukee Jewish Federation (“MJF”), which promotes liberal political positions on transgenderism, marriage, life, and other issues.³¹

- The Jewish Community Relations Council (“JCRC”), is “a core function of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation;”³² it released a “Position *Statement on LGBTQ+ Rights*” that promotes “the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, *Transgender*, Queer . . . communities”³³
- MJF also hosts a group for LGBT individuals and “allies” called “*J-Pride Milwaukee*.”³⁴
- The JCRC opposed constitutionalism and life when it “decree[d]” the Supreme Court’s *Dobbs* holding that there is no constitutional right to end the life of an unborn child in an abortion.³⁵
 - The JCRC asserted, “The JCRC supports an individual’s right to make their own *reproductive choices*.”³⁶ The statement concluded: “The JCRC will work for universal access to safe and affordable *reproductive health care* *May we all gather our strength during this painful moment*”³⁷

Bloomberg Law reported Taibleson was jointly recommended for nomination to the Seventh Circuit in 2025 by the bi-partisan judicial nominating commission of Senators Ron Johnson (R-WI) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI).³⁸

- According to iVoterGuide, Senator Baldwin is a “verified liberal.”³⁹
- Bloomberg quoted that *Baldwin has warned President Trump* that “it would be ill-advised of the president to do his own [judicial selection] process when we [Senators Baldwin and Johnson] have one set up.”⁴⁰

Both Taibleson and her husband, Benjamin Taibleson,⁴¹ have donated to Democrat politicians and/or judicial candidates.

- In 2022, Taibleson donated to *ActBlue* for former *Democratic Senator Joe Manchin*.⁴²
- Her husband donated to *Texans for Beto in 2024*,⁴³ *Joe Biden for President*,⁴⁴ *Kamala Harris* for Senate via Act Blue,⁴⁵ and other Democrat politicians.⁴⁶

Taibleson was listed as counsel on President Biden’s defense team in a case defending the government’s ability to forgive federal student loans.⁴⁷

- The case was voluntarily dismissed after the Supreme Court enjoined the program.⁴⁸

While there are some positive items in Taibleson’s record, there are also areas of serious concern, including Taibleson’s connections to a number of pro-LGBT organizations, donations from both Taibleson and her husband to Democrat politicians, and others. These concerns should not be ignored. The standard for nomination to the federal bench is not merely a strong educational background or robust legal experience. Many radical liberal prospects would possess both. Rather, the standard requires nominees with *the best long-term, demonstrable record* of commitment to the constitutional role of judges, which is to decide cases according to the original meaning of the Constitution and legislative texts, and to never legislate from the bench. Given the above concerns,

it is clear that Ms. Taibleson does not have the best, long-term demonstrable record of the prospects available for nomination to the Seventh Circuit.

For these reasons, we ask that you oppose the nomination of Rebecca Taibleson to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Sincerely,



Walker Wildmon
CEO, AFA Action

¹ S. Questionnaire, https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/taibleson_sjq.pdf, at PDF p. 5.

² Homepage, TREE OF LIFE PRESCHOOL, https://treeoflifepreschool.org/?fbclid=PAZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAaeHBmgX_kM2qY7Jxu70IH62GeIStuKd_15ur3drAOs8DKGIHb_LU3dA3JNoNQ_aem_TuAIwJKQNBIEHUWdaz-hg.

³ S. Questionnaire, https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/taibleson_sjq.pdf, at PDF p. 2.

⁴ Homepage, TREE OF LIFE PRESCHOOL, https://treeoflifepreschool.org/?fbclid=PAZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAaeHBmgX_kM2qY7Jxu70IH62GeIStuKd_15ur3drAOs8DKGIHb_LU3dA3JNoNQ_aem_TuAIwJKQNBIEHUWdaz-hg.

⁵ United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay, FACEBOOK (Oct. 14, 2015), <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1206722432677226&set=a.374237645925713> (emphasis added).

⁶ United Methodist Church of Whitefish Bay, FACEBOOK (Mar. 6, 2018), <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15XLYa5zS2/> (emphasis added).

⁷ Reconciling Ministries Network, FACEBOOK (Aug. 14, 2019), <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17JShxJBdz/>.

⁸ Social Justice, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WHITEFISH BAY, <https://umcwfb.org/ministries/social-justice/>. See also Church & Society Committee of UMC of Whitefish Bay – Whitefish Bay, WI, RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK, <https://rmnetwork.org/find/church-society-committee-of-umc-of-whitefish-bay-whitefish-bay-wi/>; The LGBT Advocacy Team – UMC of Whitefish Bay – Whitefish, WI, RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK, <https://rmnetwork.org/find/the-lgbt-advocacy-team-umc-of-whitefish-bay-whitefish-wi/>.

⁹ Who We Are, RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK, <https://rmnetwork.org/who-we-are/>.

¹⁰ Curriculum, Tree of Life Preschool, WAYBACK MACHINE (May 19, 2022), <https://web.archive.org/web/20220519053317/https://treeoflifepreschool.org/curriculum/>.

¹¹ Tate and the Pink Coat: Exploring Gender and Enacting Anti-Bias Principles, NAEYC, WAYBACK MACHINE (Aug. 16, 2022), <https://web.archive.org/web/20220816120240/https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/mar2019/exploring-gender-enacting-anti-bias> (emphasis added).

¹² Tate and the Pink Coat: Exploring Gender and Enacting Anti-Bias Principles, NAEYC, WAYBACK MACHINE (Aug. 16, 2022), <https://web.archive.org/web/20220816120240/https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/mar2019/exploring-gender-enacting-anti-bias> (emphasis added).

¹³ Ha-Kol of Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun, CEEBJ (July 2025), <https://container.parishesonline.com/bulletins/01/0811/20250701N.pdf>, at PDF p. 12.

¹⁴ Sukkahmobile Home Visits, CEEBJ, <https://www.ceebj.org/event/sukkahmobile-tour-event.html>.

¹⁵ Homepage, CEEBJ, <https://www.ceebj.org/> (last accessed Sept. 10, 2025) (emphasis added).

¹⁶ Social Action, CEEBJ, <https://www.ceebj.org/get-involved/social-action>.

¹⁷ Affiliations, CEEBJ, <https://www.ceebj.org/get-involved/affiliations>. The congregation defines their “affiliations” as “organizations we support or upon whose support we depend.”

¹⁸ Resolution in Opposition to the Confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court, URJ, <https://urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/resolution-opposition-confirmation-judge-amy-coney-barrett-us-supreme> (emphasis added).

¹⁹ Resolution in Opposition to the Confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court, URJ, <https://urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/resolution-opposition-confirmation-judge-amy-coney-barrett-us-supreme> (emphasis added).

²⁰ Resolution on the Rights of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People, URJ, <https://urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/resolution-rights-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-people> (emphasis added).

²¹ Resolution on the Rights of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People, URJ, <https://urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/resolution-rights-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-people> (emphasis added).

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- ²² *Social Action*, CEEBJ, <https://www.ceejb.org/get-involved/social-action>; *Social Action CEEBJ*, WAYBACK MACHINE (Dec. 13, 2024), <https://web.archive.org/web/20241213142336/https://www.ceejb.org/get-involved/social-action>.
- ²³ *LGBTQ*, WIS. FAITH VOICES, <https://www.wifaithvoices.org/lgbtq> (emphasis added).
- ²⁴ *LGBTQ*, WIS. FAITH VOICES, <https://www.wifaithvoices.org/lgbtq> (emphasis added).
- ²⁵ *LGBTQ*, WIS. FAITH VOICES, <https://www.wifaithvoices.org/lgbtq> (emphasis added). See *Tell the Senate to Protect Trans Health*, ADVOCATES FOR TRANS EQUALITY, <https://action.transequality.org/a/stopmedicaidcuts?emci=422022c6-ea3b-f011-a5f1-6045bda9d96b&emdi=13449a9d-ef3b-f011-a5f1-6045bda9d96b&ceid=18004490> (emphasis added).
- ²⁶ *WIVEC*, WIS. FAITH VOICES, <https://www.wifaithvoices.org/wivec> (emphasis added). See also *WIVEC's Extremism Series: A Faith Community Response*, WIS. FAITH VOICES, https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/rwmtnl1FcTMelplz_m51inQ#/registration.
- ²⁷ *Fight of Our Lives*, SOULS TO THE POLLS WIS., <https://www.soulstothepollswi.org/fightofourlives> (emphasis added).
- ²⁸ *Krauss-Taibleson*, WIS. JEWISH CHRON. (Aug. 1, 2011), <https://www.jewishchronicle.org/2011/08/01/krauss-taibleson/>.
- ²⁹ *Clergy*, OHR KODESH CONGREGATION, <https://www.ohrkodesh.org/clergy.html>.
- ³⁰ *LGBTQ Inclusion*, OHR KODESH CONGREGATION, <https://www.ohrkodesh.org/lgbtq-inclusion.html> (emphasis added).
- ³¹ *Our Donors: 2018-19 Annual Report to the Community*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED'N, <https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/MJF-Annual-Report-2018-2019.pdf>, at PDF p. 23.
- ³² *Jewish Community Relations Council*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED'N, <https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/departments/social-action/jcrc/>.
- ³³ *Position on LGBTQ+ Rights*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED'N (Feb. 17, 2025), <https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/02.18.2025-LGBTQ-Rights.pdf> (emphasis added).
- ³⁴ *J-Pride Milwaukee*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED'N, <https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/departments/outreach/jpride/> (emphasis added).
- ³⁵ *Statement: Overturning of Roe v. Wade*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED'N (June 27, 2022), https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Roe-v-Wade_JCRC-statement_062722.pdf.
- ³⁶ *Statement: Overturning of Roe v. Wade*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED'N (June 27, 2022), https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Roe-v-Wade_JCRC-statement_062722.pdf (emphasis added).
- ³⁷ *Statement: Overturning of Roe v. Wade*, MILWAUKEE JEWISH FED'N (June 27, 2022), https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Roe-v-Wade_JCRC-statement_062722.pdf (emphasis added).
- ³⁸ *Tiana Headly, Wisconsin Senators Attempt Bipartisan Judicial Pick with Trump*, BLOOMBERG L. (July 28, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/wisconsin-senators-attempt-bipartisan-judicial-pick-with-trump>.
- ³⁹ *Tammy Baldwin*, IVOTERGUIDE, <https://ivoterguide.com/candidate/2569/race/15962/election/1251>.
- ⁴⁰ *Tiana Headly, Wisconsin Senators Attempt Bipartisan Judicial Pick with Trump*, BLOOMBERG L. (July 28, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/wisconsin-senators-attempt-bipartisan-judicial-pick-with-trump>.
- ⁴¹ *Krauss-Taibleson*, WIS. JEWISH CHRON. (Aug. 1, 2011), <https://www.jewishchronicle.org/2011/08/01/krauss-taibleson/>.
- ⁴² *Individual Contributions: Rebecca Taibleson*, FEC, https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?contributor_name=rebecca+taibleson (last accessed Sept. 11, 2025).
- ⁴³ *Specific-Purpose Committee Campaign Finance Report*, https://prd.tecprd.ethicsefile.com/public/cf/2024/pdfs/ScrubbedReport_100964555.PDF, at PDF p. 6.
- ⁴⁴ *Donor Lookup: Benjamin Taibleson*, OPEN SECRETS, <https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup/results?name=benjamin+taibleson> (last accessed Sept. 11, 2025).
- ⁴⁵ *Individual Contributions: Benjamin Taibleson*, FEC, https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?contributor_name=benjamin+taibleson (last accessed Sept. 11, 2025).
- ⁴⁶ *Donor Lookup: Benjamin Taibleson*, OPEN SECRETS, <https://www.opensecrets.org/donor-lookup/results?name=benjamin+taibleson> (last accessed Sept. 11, 2025).
- ⁴⁷ *Brown Cnty. Taxpayers Ass'n v. Biden*, 2022 WL 5242626, <https://dockets.justia.com/docket/circuit-courts/ca7/22-2794>.
- ⁴⁸ *Brown Cnty. Taxpayers Ass'n v. Biden*, WILL, <https://will-law.org/brown-county-taxpayers-association-v-biden/>.