

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley

Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin

Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

The Society for the Rule of Law Institute is a national organization of conservative, center-right, and libertarian lawyers and like-minded citizens who prioritize the defense of the rule of law, the Constitution, and American democracy. Many of our supporters have served in the Justice Department, both as career attorneys and as high-level Republican appointees.

I write to you to express our opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Kashyap Patel as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). As outlined in an earlier [letter](#) on behalf of the Society regarding the Attorney General nomination, the Senate Judiciary Committee's duty to thoroughly vet nominees for high office is essential to safeguarding the integrity and impartiality of our justice system. The same principles must be applied here, with a rigorous examination of Mr. Patel's record and fitness for this critical role.

We fully acknowledge that presidents are generally entitled to deference in selecting their nominees for important executive branch positions. However, deference should not override the Senate's duty to ensure that nominees possess the character and competence to fulfill the demands of the office to which they have been nominated. The FBI, as our nation's premier law enforcement agency, deserves a leader of unquestioned integrity and unshakeable commitment to the rule of law.

To be clear, the FBI is not without fault. It is an institution that, like all others, must be held accountable and subject to improvement. We remain open to reformers who seek to address the Bureau's shortcomings, provided they are genuinely committed to neutrality and to the fair administration of justice. However, any belief in perceived partisan bias within the FBI cannot be corrected by inserting opposing bias.

This nomination requires additional scrutiny in light of recent events that suggest the White House intends to impose political loyalty tests on federal law enforcement and take retributive action against career civil servants for investigating and prosecuting federal crimes committed by supporters of the president. It is more important than ever that the FBI be led by an individual who will shield its employees from improper political interference, raise standards of professionalism, and earn the trust of Americans of all political stripes.

Mr. Patel's record indicates that he is animated by partisan causes and loyalties more than the principles of impartial law enforcement. His willingness to cast aspersions on the work of the FBI and its dedicated professionals—without evidence or in service of political objectives—should deeply concern anyone who values the rule of law.

The Director of the FBI must not only be a capable manager but must also embody the nonpartisan, apolitical spirit that is essential to the agency's mission. Confirming a nominee with a track record of partisanship risks undermining public faith in the agency at a time when it is already facing significant scrutiny.

We urge the Committee to reject Mr. Patel's nomination. It is critical that any FBI Director be above reproach, dedicated to impartiality, and committed to the enforcement of the law without fear or favor. Mr. Patel's record falls short of that standard.

Should the Senate nonetheless proceed to confirm Mr. Patel, we urge the Committee to conduct vigilant oversight of the FBI under his stewardship. Mr. Patel testified at his hearing: "The only thing that will matter if I'm confirmed as a director of the FBI is a de-weaponized, de-politicized system of law enforcement completely devoted to rigorous obedience of the Constitution and a singular standard of justice." While past conduct already raises doubts about this commitment, the Committee, should it confirm him, must hold him to his word.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gregg Nunziata

Executive Director

Society for the Rule of Law Institute