



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

January 25, 2015

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, I write today to advise you of our strong concerns over the potential nomination of Vanita Gupta as the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. NSA believes that Ms. Gupta's previous statements on a range of issues make her ill-suited for this important post.

If Ms. Gupta is formally nominated, I urge you to investigate her previous statements on the legalization of drugs. As recently as 2012, she wrote in the Huffington Post that "states should decriminalize simple possession of all drugs, particularly marijuana, and for small amounts of other drugs." Decriminalization of all drugs—including heroin, LSD, cocaine, and more—would have disastrous effects on our communities and our citizens. Communities have been crippled by drug abuse and addiction, stifling economic productivity and destroying families. Ms. Gupta's short-sighted statements on legalization and her apparent beliefs would put her at odds with the goal of public safety day in and day out. As the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, it is imperative that any nominee understand the challenges faced by law enforcement in protecting our communities.

In closing, the National Sheriffs' Association has strong concerns with the potential nomination of Ms. Gupta. I urge you and the entire Committee to ensure that it fully understands her views before any confirmation hearings. Mr. Chairman, I am certain that your commitment to supporting law enforcement will be an asset as we move forward in the coming months. If I can be of assistance on this or any other issue, please reach out to me or NSA Executive Director Jonathan Thompson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Aubrey". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sheriff John E. Aubrey  
President, National Sheriffs' Association  
Jefferson County, Kentucky