

October 5, 2020

## **EMERGENCY COALITION TO BLOCK TRUMP'S SCOTUS NOMINATION**

### Launch Statement

With the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, we lost an American hero, one who overcame deeply entrenched gender discrimination in our society and our legal system to become one of the most important and influential civil rights lawyers, judges, and Supreme Court justices in our nation's history. Her life's work and her legacy have advanced the cause of equality, justice, and democracy as few others have, and made America a better place for all of us.

But Donald Trump and Mitch McConnell are determined to destroy that legacy by nominating and pressing ahead to confirm Judge Amy Coney Barrett in their bid to fill the Supreme Court vacancy **just weeks before the November election and with voting in some states already underway**. This from the same Mitch McConnell who refused to even allow a hearing for President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee in March 2016, claiming that *eight months* was too close to the 2016 election. The Supreme Court can survive with 8 justices—indeed, it did for eleven months from Justice Scalia's death to Justice Gorsuch's confirmation in April 2017, including the entire 2016 election and post-election transition period. And a recent [poll](#) showed that sixty-two percent of American adults want the winner of the next election to pick Justice Ginsburg's replacement.

To stop this shameless effort, we, the undersigned organizations, announce today the launch of the Emergency Coalition to Block Trump's SCOTUS Nomination. We declare that *any* Trump nomination to the Supreme Court this year would be illegitimate and must be stopped. **Senators must take every available step to block Judge Barrett's confirmation from going forward** between now and the swearing-in of the next president and Senate. The current health crisis and potential attendant disruption of Senate business underscore that any given increment of procedural delay could prove to be dispositive.

**It's not enough to vote "no." Senators need to put up a blockade.** Even the Senate "minority" (which now represents millions more Americans than the Senate "majority") has [procedures available](#) to delay and block the confirmation vote.

This isn't about Judge Barrett's views or character. If Donald Trump wins re-election in a free and fair election, and Mitch McConnell retains control of the Senate, then they can hold a vote on this nomination. **But confirming Judge Barrett now, with the election just weeks away, is an illegitimate power grab and an attack on our democracy.**

Winning means preventing Trump and McConnell from transforming the nation's highest court against the wishes of the American people. But, to win, we need senators to do everything in their power to block Trump's nomination, including stopping all Senate business, if necessary.

Together we can fight back and protect the integrity of our nation's highest court and our democracy.

Signed:

Be A Hero Fund  
Demand Progress  
Equal Justice Society  
Free Speech For People  
Women's March

*Founding members of the coalition*