



Federal Bar Association

October 14, 2020

Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: “The Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2020” (S. 4711)

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write to thank you and Senators Robert Menendez and Cory Booker for introducing “The Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2020” (S. 4711). The Federal Bar Association strongly supports this legislation and urges the Senate Judiciary Committee to provide its approval at the earliest possible time.

As the foremost national bar association devoted to the practice of Federal law and the vitality of the Federal court system, the Federal Bar Association is committed to the safety and protection of the Federal Judiciary. Our association was instrumental in the passage of the Court Security Improvement of 2007 (Public Law 110-177), and today we call upon Congress to enlarge the safeguards provided for the protection of the Federal Judiciary under statute.

As you know, S. 4711 would prohibit government agencies from posting personal information about judges on the internet and would authorize a grant program to help state and local governments prevent that information from getting online. In addition, the bill would protect judges’ personally identifiable information on the internet and provide incentives for states to take similar action. Under the measure, commercial data collectors would be prohibited from selling or purchasing personally identifiable information of federal judges. The bill also would permit injunctive relief and a private right-of-action if a person or group violates the law, if enacted.

We believe that S. 4711 deserves serious attention from Congress because threats against federal judges have multiplied considerably over the past five years. The availability of personally identifiable information on the internet about judges and their families poses a serious problem. The availability on the internet of the home address of United States District Judge Esther Salas contributed to the recent murder of Judge Salas’ son and the critical wounding of her husband at the judge’s home in North Brunswick, New Jersey on July 19. Sadly, the targeted attack on Judge Salas’ family was not a random act. The murders of United States District Judge John Wood (1979), United States District Judge Richard Daronco (1988), United States Circuit Judge Robert Vance (1989), United States District Judge John Roll (2011), and family members

of United States District Judge Joan Lefkow (2005), all represented targeted attacks. It is imperative that Congress take action against these kinds of tragedies and install the necessary safeguards in federal law proposed by S. 4711.

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



W. West Allen
National President

cc: Hon. Robert Menendez, United States Senate
Hon. Cory Booker, United States Senate
Hon. James C. Duff, Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States