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Attorney General Griffin Leads Coalition of 11 Attorneys General in Support of Justice Cody Hiland's Nomination to Eighth Circuit

Griffin: 'I am proud to lead this coalition of attorneys general in supporting Justice Hiland's nomination'

LITTLE ROCK – Attorney General Tim Griffin today led a coalition of 11 state attorneys general in sending a letter to U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley and Ranking Member Dick Durbin expressing support for Arkansas Supreme Court Justice J. Cody Hiland's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Griffin issued the following statement:

"Justice Hiland has dedicated his career to public service and upholding the rule of law. His experience as a state and federal prosecutor, legal adviser, and Arkansas Supreme Court justice gives him a unique understanding of the law and the proper role of the judiciary.

"I am proud to lead this coalition of attorneys general in supporting Justice Hiland's nomination. His extensive legal experience, sound judgment, and commitment to interpreting the law as written will serve him well on the Eighth Circuit, and I urge the Senate to confirm him without delay."

In their letter, the attorneys general highlighted Hiland's extensive legal career, including his service as Prosecuting Attorney for Arkansas's Twentieth Judicial District, United States

Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Chief Legal Counsel for the Arkansas Department of Public Safety, and Associate Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

The attorneys general wrote:

"As state Attorneys General, we recognize the importance of a federal judiciary that faithfully interprets the Constitution, respects the separation of powers, and understands the constitutional balance between federal and state authority. Justice Hiland's experience on both sides of the state-federal divide uniquely positions him to appreciate these foundational principles."

Joining Griffin in signing the letter were Attorneys General Brenna Bird (Iowa), Russell Coleman (Kentucky), Liz Murrill (Louisiana), Mike Hilgers (Nebraska), Gentner Drummond (Oklahoma), Andy Wilson (Ohio), Alan Wilson (South Carolina), Marty Jackley (South Dakota), Derek Brown (Utah), and John B. McCuskey (West Virginia).

To read the full letter of support, click here.

About Attorney General Tim Griffin

Tim Griffin was sworn in as the 57th Attorney General of Arkansas on January 10, 2023, having previously served as the state's 20th Lieutenant Governor from 2015-2023. From 2011-2015, Griffin served as the 24th representative of Arkansas's Second Congressional District, where he served on the House Committee on Ways and Means, House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Ethics and House Committee on the Judiciary while also serving as a Deputy Whip for the Majority.

Griffin is currently an officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard and holds the rank of colonel. Griffin served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps for more than 28 years. In 2005, Griffin was mobilized to active duty as an Army prosecutor at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and served with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Mosul, Iraq.

His previous assignments include serving as the Commander of the 2d Legal Operations Detachment in New Orleans, Louisiana; the Commander of the 134th Legal Operations Detachment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and as a Senior Legislative Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon. Griffin earned a master's degree in strategic studies as a Distinguished Honor Graduate from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Griffin also served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs for President George W. Bush; Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General Michael Chertoff, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Arkansas; Senior Investigative Counsel, Government Reform and Oversight Committee, U.S. House of Representatives; and Associate Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel David M. Barrett, In re: HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Griffin is a graduate of Magnolia High School, Hendrix College in Conway, and Tulane Law School in New Orleans. He attended graduate school at Oxford University. He is admitted to practice law in Arkansas (active) and Louisiana (inactive). Griffin lives in Little Rock with his wife, Elizabeth, a Camden native, and their three children.

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