



CHAD READLER
ACTION RESOURCES



WRONG FOR THE FEDERAL BENCH

ABOUT CHAD READLER

President Donald Trump has nominated Chad Readler for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. While at the Justice Department, Readler has been on the front lines of the Trump Administration's war on affordable health care, and has fought against rights for workers, women, LGBTQ communities, immigrants, and more.

KEY POINTS

Readler filed a brief to strike down key provisions of the Affordable Care Act. As a Justice Department official, Readler led the anti-ACA effort on behalf of the Trump Administration, arguing in a legal brief that the Affordable Care Act's protections for people with preexisting conditions were unconstitutional. Taking away those protections could hurt more than 50 million Americans, including people with diabetes, pregnant women, cancer survivors, and many older Americans.

Readler opposes workers' rights. In an article headlined "Local Government Anti-Discrimination Laws: Do They Make a Difference?" Readler wrote in opposition to laws prohibiting workplace discrimination. At the Justice Department, he helped to make millions of American workers ineligible for overtime pay, refusing to defend an Obama-era overtime rule.

Readler is a foe of public education. Readler is a staunch advocate for private schools and charter schools and fought against accountability for failing and corrupt charter schools. He pushed to eliminate a provision of the Ohio Constitution that provides for the right to a public education for Ohio students. He also supported efforts by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to make it harder for students to get debt relief when they are victims of deceptive and illegal practices by for-profit colleges.

Readler has fought reproductive rights. Readler argued for the Justice Department against the right of a young immigrant woman in government custody to obtain abortion care. He also argued on behalf of fake women's health centers.

Readler has fought LGBTQ rights. As a Justice Department official, Readler has advanced the anti-LGBTQ agenda of the Trump Administration including the transgender military ban. He also wrote a brief in favor of discrimination against an LGBTQ couple in the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* case.

Readler favors the death penalty for minors. In an article headlined "Make Death Penalty for Youth Available Widely," Readler wrote in favor of execution as a penalty for 16- and 17-year-old children.

Readler advocated for harsh policies affecting immigrants. He defended the Trump Administration's policy of separating immigrant children from their parents at the border, and Trump's discriminatory Muslim Ban. Arguing against providing sleeping mats for detained immigrants, he claimed that providing the mats would reduce the number of people who could be crowded into a detention room.

JUDGES MATTER

WHY COURTS
MATTER

YOUR SENATOR
MATTERS

READLER: WRONG
FOR THE BENCH

THE JUDGES
WE WANT

DON'T LET TRUMP TAKE OVER A KEY PROTECTION FOR OUR RIGHTS: OUR COURTS

- Lower federal courts are often the last bastions of protection for the rights of people without wealth, power, or privilege. And now, they are an important line of defense against Trump's radical, ultraconservative agenda.
- Federal courts at all levels decide cases on issues vital to all of us. Federal courts have rejected the ban on transgender people serving in the military, stood up for Dreamers, and blocked the administration's attempts to stop teenage immigrants from obtaining abortions.
- Because the Supreme Court only hears around 80 cases a year, the lower courts play a major and often-overlooked role in helping to define and protect our constitutional rights for generations.
- Donald Trump has already confirmed more than 80 people to lifetime federal court seats, and has over 130 federal court seats still to fill. That gives him the chance to put his stamp on our justice system for decades to come, unless we fight back against these ultraconservative nominees.

WHY COURTS
MATTER

YOUR SENATOR
MATTERS

READLER: WRONG
FOR THE BENCH

THE JUDGES
WE WANT

EVERY VOTE MATTERS

- Senators have a responsibility to closely scrutinize the record of every individual nominated to the federal bench, and reject those who are unqualified.
- Senators from nominees' home states play an even bigger role. Both senators indicate approval for a candidate's nomination to move forward by returning so-called blue slips. Traditionally, nominees have not moved forward if both home state senators have not returned their blue slips signaling their approval for the nomination to advance.
- In most cases, once a nominee has both blue slips, the next step is a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. If the nominee is approved by the committee, then the nomination is sent to the full Senate for consideration. The bottom line? Every senator gets a voice on judicial nominees.

WHY COURTS
MATTER

YOUR SENATOR
MATTERS

READLER: WRONG
FOR THE BENCH

THE JUDGES
WE WANT

TRUMP'S JUDICIAL NOMINEES SO FAR FIT A DISTURBING PATTERN

- President Donald Trump nominated Chad Readler because he believes that he, like other Trump nominees, will be a rubber stamp for a radical agenda that threatens health care, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, people of color, immigrants and the environment.
- Chad Readler's name is on the Justice Department brief arguing to strip health care protections from more than 50 million Americans with preexisting conditions.
- Chad Readler's record raises questions about his ability to fairly administer justice and stand up for the constitutional rights of all. He has no place on the federal bench.

WHY COURTS
MATTER

YOUR SENATOR
MATTERS

READLER: WRONG
FOR THE BENCH

THE JUDGES
WE WANT

WE NEED JUDGES WHO WILL PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF EVERYONE

- We want Supreme Court and lower court judges who will be an independent check on abuses of power, and who understand the Constitution protects all of us – not just the wealthy and powerful.
- We want judges who will not turn back the clock on rights for women, workers, LGBTQ people, and people of color, or roll back protections that keep our communities healthy.
- We want judges who will defend core constitutional values of liberty, equality, and justice for all.

TAKE ACTION

CONTACT YOUR SENATOR

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Contact your senators and call, write or set up a meeting with them.

**CONTACT
YOUR SENATORS**

Start a call-in, petition, or letter drive, and ask others to join your meeting with your senators.

**MOBILIZE
YOUR NETWORK**

Write a letter to the editor or an op-ed in your local paper. Use your personal network and build the movement online with social media. Tweet at your senators.

**AMPLIFY
YOUR VOICE**

Hold a panel, an event or a visibility action to show others how the judicial branch affects them and what they can do to take action.

**EDUCATE
YOUR COMMUNITY**

GET CONNECTED TO YOUR SENATOR AT

AFJAC.ORG

TELL YOUR SENATOR: My name is [name], and I'm a constituent from [city]. I'm calling because I'm deeply concerned about Chad Readler, Donald Trump's nominee to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. Readler has been on the front lines of the Trump Administration's war on affordable health care, and has worked to undermine protections for 50 million people with preexisting conditions. I am urging Senator [X] to oppose Readler's nomination. Thank you.

STAY ON THEIR RADAR

Call your senators. Get 5 friends to call. Ask them to ask 5 friends to call. Then call again.

**CALL
YOUR SENATORS**

Identify people in your network who are particularly influential - political donors, community and business leaders, state elected officials - and ask them to call.

**IDENTIFY
INFLUENCERS**

Schedule appointments or drop in to district offices. Set up a phone call with your senators or their staff while they're in D.C.

**SCHEDULE
APPOINTMENTS**

Attend town halls, public appearances, and events and voice your concerns about Chad Readler.

**SHOWING UP
MATTERS**

QUESTIONS FOR SENATORS ABOUT READLER

SENATORS WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. Throughout the year, senators hold events in their home states, as well as holding town halls online and on the phone, and asking for constituent input on social media. Use these opportunities to ask your senators questions about the nominee such as:

1

CHAD READLER HAS PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO GUT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND UNDERMINE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS. Will you support a nominee who would take away access to affordable health care for 50 million people?

CHAD READLER HAS ADVOCATED FOR THE INHUMANE TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS, ARGUING AGAINST PROVIDING SLEEPING MATS IN ORDER TO PACK MORE PEOPLE INTO A DETENTION ROOM. Will you support someone who does not respect basic human rights?

2

3

READLER HAS ACTIVELY FOUGHT AGAINST LGBTQ EQUALITY. He has worked to advance the Trump Administration's anti-LGBTQ agenda, including the transgender military ban, and wrote a brief in favor of LGBTQ discrimination in Masterpiece Cakeshop. Will you support someone who has undermined the rights of LGBTQ people?

READLER HAS FOUGHT REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS. He has argued on behalf of fake women's health centers, and argued for the Justice Department against the right of a young immigrant woman in government custody to obtain abortion care. Will you stand up for reproductive rights and oppose Readler's nomination?

4

5

CHAD READLER HAS WRITTEN IN FAVOR OF THE DEATH PENALTY FOR MINORS. Will you oppose the nomination of someone who has written in favor of the execution of 16- to 17-year-old children?

IF YOUR SENATOR HAS NOT TAKEN A POSITION ON READLER'S NOMINATION, YOU MIGHT END YOUR QUESTIONS BY ASKING, "WILL YOU THOROUGHLY REVIEW READLER'S RECORD, AND ENSURE THAT HE WILL PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS?"

TAKE ACTION MOBILIZE YOUR NETWORK

WHAT YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN DO

Send a letter to and call senators your organization is close to. Circulate a petition calling for senators to oppose Readler's nomination and deliver the signatures to your senators.

CONTACT SENATORS

Send an action alert to your list urging them to call, write, or otherwise contact their senators demanding that they oppose Readler for the Sixth Circuit.

MOBILIZE YOUR NETWORK

Write a press release or letter to the editor in local, state, and national publications about Chad Readler's nomination. Amplify your organization's position on social media.

AMPLIFY YOUR POSITION

Host a panel discussion, a press event, or a visibility action on the importance of the judiciary in protecting our rights.

EDUCATE AND MOBILIZE

SENATORS ARE ELECTED TO REPRESENT THEIR CONSTITUENTS, and pay attention to the messages they're receiving on an issue. In recent months, mass mobilizations of phone calls, rallies, demonstrations and other events have had a major impact on the public's awareness of critical issues and nominations – and helped us defeat nominees who had no place on the federal bench. It takes all of us coming together, activating our networks and organizations, to make the difference.

Dear friends,

In nominating Chad Readler for a lifetime seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, President Trump continues to jeopardize the integrity of our courts. Readler has led the Trump Administration's charge to destroy the Affordable Care Act and undermine access to health care for 50 million people with preexisting conditions. He has advocated for the inhumane treatment of immigrants, defended executing minors, and attacked LGBTQ rights. Readler's nomination is a danger to our civil rights.

Call and tell your senators: Chad Readler does not belong on the federal bench.

Our courts are our last line of defense. Don't let Donald Trump appoint judges who will rubber-stamp his extremist agenda and attack the rights and dignity of others.

It is our job to protect our courts. Call your senators today and tell them: Vote no on Chad Readler.

SAMPLE ACTION ALERT

TAKE ACTION AMPLIFY YOUR VOICE

SENATORS NEED TO HEAR FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION

Contacting senators directly is one of the most important ways to highlight the public movement to stop Chad Readler and make a difference. In addition to mobilizing your network and having your organization's supporters call and write their senators, your organization should send a letter to the senators in your state detailing your organization's concerns with Readler's record and potential impact on the issues your organization champions.

The Honorable YOUR SENATOR
OFFICE ADDRESS
Washington, D.C. 20510

As an organization representing [YOUR CONSTITUENCY, ISSUE OR NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS], we write to urge you to reject the nomination of Chad Readler for a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

As a federal judge, Readler would pose an immediate threat to health care protections relied upon by millions of Americans. In his capacity as a Justice Department official in the Trump Administration, he put his name on the legal brief arguing to strip away key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, including protections for people with preexisting conditions like cancer, diabetes, and other chronic conditions.

Readler has also been hostile to reproductive rights, the rights of workers, and LGBTQ rights. He is a foe of public education and has worked to undermine access to a quality public education for children in his home state of Ohio.

We need judges who understand that the Constitution protects all of us, not just the wealthy and powerful. We are deeply concerned that Chad Readler would not act in the best interests of the rights and liberties of all people if he were confirmed to the federal bench. As a Sixth Circuit judge, Readler would have the power to make rulings that would affect not just the states in his circuit but potentially the entire country, for decades to come.

We urge you to show leadership on this issue, and to put your constituents' wellbeing ahead of powerful special interests. We urge you to vote no on the confirmation of Chad Readler to the federal bench.

Sincerely,
Your Organization
Contact Information

SAMPLE ORGANIZATIONAL LETTER

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TIPS FOR WRITING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Before submitting your piece, check your paper's guidelines on length. Use our talking points to get your point across concisely but remember to connect these issues to your local area. Find a way to explain how judicial nominations will affect your community for decades to come.

**BE CLEAR, TIMELY,
AND CONCISE**

Be sure your letter makes a clear ask of your senators, such as calling for them to vote no on Reader. Talk about the importance of protecting our lower federal courts in order to ensure that our judicial branch protects all of us.

**ASKS AND
CALLS TO ACTION**

Try your local or school paper first but also reach out to other publications. This is a very important issue and the media will be looking for local perspectives.

You can also maximize your efforts by having others in your community write letters to the same papers. Even if they are not printed, this will let editors know that this issue matters.

**AMPLIFY
YOUR IMPACT**

Check your local newspaper so you can respond to a recent article or a recent event in your area. When submitting your piece, make sure you refer to the article specifically by name and date. This will make it much more likely that your piece is published.

**BE
CURRENT**

IF YOUR LETTER IS PRINTED, SEND A COPY TO YOUR SENATORS' OFFICES

Senators often search for the issues that their constituents care about in these local papers. Make sure that you bring your piece to your next meeting or send their local aides a copy. This will ensure that your message reaches them.

TAKE ACTION WRITE YOUR LETTER

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

President Trump has nominated a deeply troubling candidate, Chad Readler, to a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Senators must not allow this nomination to go forward.

Readler's nomination is part of the Trump Administration's full-scale assault on health care in this country, especially protections for people with preexisting conditions. As a Justice Department official, Readler's name is on the legal brief the Administration has filed arguing to take away those protections provided by the Affordable Care Act. If Readler's argument is successful, tens of millions of Americans – including cancer survivors, pregnant women, people with diabetes, and more – could lose their access to health care. We do not want someone who would advance such an argument to obtain a lifetime seat on a federal court.

As if that were not enough, Readler has also shown himself hostile to workers' rights, and even public education for children. His views are extreme and harmful to the vast majority of Americans.

Every United States Senator has a say in whether a nominee is confirmed to the federal bench, and in a closely divided Senate, every Senator's vote is of the utmost importance. It follows that any Senator who claims to care about the health and wellbeing of his or her constituents cannot in good conscience vote to confirm Readler.

Sincerely,
Your Signature

Contact information here

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TAKE ACTION USING SOCIAL MEDIA

TIPS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

Look up your senators' social media handles. Tag them in relevant posts, and tweet directly at them. Encourage your friends and followers to do the same.

TAG YOUR SENATORS

Identify the key hashtags for your issue, like #CourtsMatter, #TrumpJudges, and #StopReadler. Keep an eye out for opportunities to engage with new or trending hashtags.

KNOW YOUR HASHTAGS

Engage with other users talking about your issue by retweeting, liking, and sharing their content. Ask your followers to retweet and share your posts if they agree.

RETWEET, LIKE, AND SHARE

Ask questions, make polls, and post other content that encourages your followers to engage with you and the issue. Send out new resources that will help people learn more about the courts.

ENGAGE YOUR AUDIENCE

SOCIAL MEDIA CAN BE A POWERFUL TOOL. Social media can help you use your network to build the movement for fair courts. Adding your voice to the conversation, and using it to amplify the other actions you're taking, can help hold your senators accountable.

- Chad Readler is leading this administration's fight to undermine access to affordable health care. Now, Trump wants to give him a lifetime seat on the federal bench. #StopReadler #TrumpJudges
- Time and time again, Chad Readler signed off on the Trump administration's worst policies - even when other civil servants wouldn't. Now, Trump wants to reward him with a lifetime seat on the federal bench. #StopReadler #TrumpJudges
- Chad Readler has led this administration's efforts to gut protections for millions of people with preexisting conditions. Now he's up for a lifetime seat on the federal bench. #courtsmatter #StopReadler

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS