



The Honorable Michael Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

In March 2023, the Judicial Conference [recommended](#) creating new judgeships to meet workload demands across the federal courts. Responding to that need, [a bipartisan group of legislators](#) came together to draft the Judicial Understaffing Delays Getting Emergencies Solved (JUDGES) Act, which authorizes 63 new permanent district court judgeships and three new temporary district court judgeships.

These would be the first new district court judgeships since 2003 and the first comprehensive adjustment to the number of judicial seats since 1990. This bill, if enacted, will address needs for judges that have been felt across the country—and in many jurisdictions has reached a crisis point. [In August](#), the JUDGES Act passed the Senate with Unanimous Consent. Now, we ask the House to pass the JUDGES Act, too.


The Attorneys General of Iowa, New York, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina,

Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, and Washington echo these longstanding concerns and support this bipartisan effort to help solve many ongoing judicial emergencies. This bill takes an approach that will ensure fairness in appointing judges to fill these empty seats—with new judicial seats created over the next ten years in batches. That will ensure a fair and orderly process to make sure that our judiciary maintains its high quality and standards. Rather than authorize all the judgeships at once, this staggered approach over the next decade ensures that both the judiciary and litigants have ample time to adjust. And the added judgeships address real needs in both large states, like New York and Texas, and in small states, like Iowa and Delaware.

This is the best opportunity Congress has had for a bipartisan solution to this longstanding problem, and the undersigned Attorneys General strongly recommend that the House make the most of this opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration,

  
Brenna Bird  
Iowa Attorney General

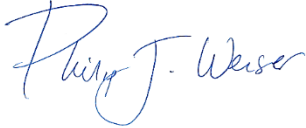
  
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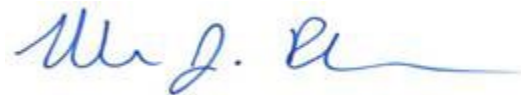
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